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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21ST, 2010

THE DREAM IS OVER

Defence Technical College collapses - see pages 20 and 21

Barry rallies to help Niamh's dream of being able to walk

by TIM CHAPMAN

A fundraising evening has been organised by people in the Barry community in support of a little four year old girl whose only dream is to be able to walk properly.

The lower half of Niamh Hurn's nervous system is damaged which means she has mobility problems and keeps losing her balance.

Niamh's mother Michelle Hurn (31) told The GEM: "She is a bubbly, outgoing, spirited little girl who always wants to try and do things for herself."

"She sometimes tries to walk across the lounge, but even that can be too far for her."

Her father, Chris Hurn (31) added: "She is constantly falling over and banging her head."

Family and friends have been so moved by Niamh's plight that they are organising a disco and karaoke evening at Cadoxton Conservative Club on October 29 to raise funds for her.

Niamh suffers from a very rare condition called hydrosyringomyelia. Her spine fills with extra fluid, causing swelling and damage to the nerves.

The family hope to get Niamh a new wheelchair, and there may be the need for operations in the future.

Chris said: "It is a very rare condition and we've even gone onto the internet to discover



more about it.

"Niamh's neurologist has said that he doesn't think she will get any worse, but that it is diffi-

cult to predict whether she will get better."

Michelle emphasised: "What is important is that we get Niamh a new wheelchair that is easier to use."

"The current one has wheels that are too far back, is difficult to operate and not particularly stable."

Niamh, who has a younger sister, Jazmin, aged one, attends Ysgol Sant Curig where she gets one-to-one support from the council for seven and a half hours a week. The couple hope she will get more one-to-one time which ensures that she is safe, and that her educational needs are met.

Michelle said: "The school have been a brilliant support to her."

Chris, who is also

Local landmark is 'likely to be entirely rebuilt'

CADOXTON HOUSE is likely to be entirely rebuilt after a decision was made that in the interests of safety the final façade facing Belle Vue Terrace had to come down.

The Vale Council has confirmed that a new planning application will put forward.

The well known landmark is being transformed into a community support centre tackling social ills such as domestic violence and alcohol addiction.

A council spokeswoman explained why further action had been required, bringing down the last remnants of the old building. "This decision has been taken in light of the fact that although the wall itself is in a stable condition, further planned work, such as underpinning and replacing lintels over windows on or near this wall, is very likely to weaken it to a state where it could easily collapse, posing a potential risk to all concerned."

She added: "A new planning application will be submitted for the new works and when rebuilt Cadoxton House will look like the original structure, as previously planned and agreed."

Cadoxton councillors Anne Moore, Fred Johnson and Neil Moore have sent a letter to The GEM in which they point out: "As local councillors we have strived to retain Cadoxton House and bring it back into public use but regrettably our hopes have been dashed."

"We have recently witnessed the removal of the remaining wall that was all that was left after the builders went in to start the 'refurbishment project'."

"Although nothing now remains of the former Cadoxton House we are adamant that any replacement building the council erects will be as close to the original external design as possible and that is what we are now trying to achieve."

Please see their letter on page 12.

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Airport drop off zones explained

FURTHER to the letter by Lynne Healey on September 16, I wanted to clarify a few of the points raised, and say that if Mrs Healey had contacted us directly, we could have explained the new system personally.

Since July 2010, Cardiff Airport introduced the option of the priority drop and go and priority pick up areas costing £1, with the alternative option of a free drop off and pick up area in car park 1.

This is clearly signposted and drivers are given an opportunity to return to car park 1 safely at the last roundabout, before entering the priority areas.

Secondly, the coin bins on the exit roads do

accept silver coins to make up £1 and not just a £1 coin. At the exit barriers, there are call points to contact our car park staff – if called, the member of staff would have advised Mrs Healey, if she had only notes or cards to pull into the short stay car park safely and to use either the payment machines or customer service desk for payment.

This payment system, therefore, doesn't require the driver to leave the vehicle unattended in the area directly in front of the terminal.

I hope this helps to clarify the new system, and if Mrs Healey does have further queries, I hope she feels she can contact us directly in the future.

Margaret James,
Cardiff Airport

No need to preserve all the old buildings

IT was great to learn of the Victorian Society support for the preservation of the old Edwardian fire station in Court Road, Barry.

It is a beautiful building, well designed and of great character, and has served Barry well in both World Wars and in peace.

This is a building we cannot afford to lose. It has potential galore and could have a dual purpose – as an antique centre, such as in Cardiff – and also as a local museum which Barry, with its history, needs.

It would be both a money spinner, attracting people to the town and helping local business and an educational facility for both young and old.

The other building, and this is not going to win me any friends, is the old Theatre Royal.

If all the people who want to preserve it being developed had used it when it was open, it would not be in its current sorry state. 'You didn't use, so you are going to lose it'.

It does not have adequate parking for a modern, viable cinema. Let's face that fact, however unpalatable.

The current proposals for the site by Hafod Care do provide a good plan for residential care.

Yes, Barry does need a cinema, positioned on the Waterfront, modern with adequate parking, it would be viable and would attract that 'going concern', the family, the financial lifeblood of a business.

Stephen Newman,
Barry

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'CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S RESPONSE WAS NOT A SENSITIVE ONE'

HAVING read the letter in The GEM last week entitled

'Council chiefs should look for savings closer to home', I feel compelled to voice my concern on the content and tone of the response from the chief executive of the Vale Council.

Despite his positioning and the dismissive tone of his response, he appears to have forgotten that he is a public servant, paid through taxa-

tion. As such, he should be accountable to the public and their concerns, rather than taking the dismissive and overly defensive position underlying his response.

Similarly, he points out the good track record of the Vale and defends local elected members.

He conveniently neglects to mention the headline grabbing failures and problems that have occurred in recent years.

These are still fresh in the minds of many.

The evidence to support the good track record and service quality in part, appears to be

supported by independent research. My question would be whether this survey is truly representative of Vale residents and their views.

Surveys provide a very low level of evidence and in many cases are a victim of low response rates and bias.

To quote that 92 per cent of Vale residents were satisfied with council services is nonsense as the survey would never have reached that many residents in the Vale.

More worryingly, this statement demonstrates a very limited understanding of these research findings on his part and that he has taken a false sense of comfort from them.

In reality, he would have to do little more

Boris does run London!

WITH reference to the comments from the Vale Council's chief executive in The GEM's letters page on October 14, I would like to make a few comments.

It is good for the council's most senior official to respond to citizens' concerns, but was it necessary for Mr Maitland Evans to seek to undermine a member of the public by saying Boris Johnson does not

run London?

Saying that he "works in partnership with London's 33 councils, each with their own chief executives" is perhaps over-emphasising the role of chief executives.

I suspect that Sir Ian Blair, Commissioner of Police for Greater London, when he famously fell out with Bozza and resigned, was left with the impression that Mr Johnson runs London – as do many other people.

Coun Keith Lewis, Barry Town Council

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL OCTOBER 28)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
21 Thur	06.05	9.1	18.20	9.3
22 Fri	06.43	9.4	18.57	9.5
23 Sat	07.13	9.5	19.32	9.6
24 Sun	07.46	9.7	20.02	9.6
25 Mon	08.17	9.6	20.39	9.5
26 Tues	08.51	9.5	21.14	9.4
27 Wed	09.28	9.3	21.49	9.1
28 Thur	10.09	8.9	22.33	8.7

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide tablespecific to their location.

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To make a surgery appointment with **Jane Hutt AM**, contact the constituency office (01446) 740981.

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'FENCE IS REQUIRED ALONG ASH PATH TO PROTECT WALKERS,' - say Dinas Powys politicians

A petition is being circulated in Dinas Powys and Penarth, calling for greater safety of pedestrians along the Ash Path, one of the main links between the village and the town.

For decades people have trodden the popular route which heads through the fields, but fears have been raised following incidents involving horses.

Plaid regional AM Chris Franks, who pointed out that the path is heavily used by children from St Cyres School and Ysgol Pen y Garth, told The GEM: "I have

by TIM CHAPMAN

received a number of representations by residents worried about mixing horses with pedestrians, especially children. It is about time that the Vale realised how important the issue has become."

Mr Franks explained that one incident in particular had concentrated the minds of people in Dinas and Penarth.

"There was a serious incident along the path some time ago. A lady was hospitalised for a significant period, yet the Vale has reacted slowly to concerns raised by walkers."

"Plaid is concerned that the Vale Council has

not given this situation a higher priority. We are supposed to be encouraging people to walk more."

"However, as is too often the case the council doesn't seem interested."

Dinas Powys councillor Val Hartrey has been collecting signatures on a petition calling for urgent action from the Vale Council.

The petition points out: "There has already been an extremely serious incident due to the presence of horses on the path and, should horses be allowed back into the fields, there could well be another one in the near future."

The petition asks that

"urgent action is taken by the Vale Council, such as a temporary post and rail fence put in place, to protect the school pupils, parents and other users."

Bryan Jeffreys, the director of learning and development at the Vale Council, explained: "The council does not own this land, consequently we cannot erect a fence there and we have no control of what livestock is kept in the fields."

"However, we have had discussions with the land owners in question about the siting of a stock-proof fence on their land and we are pressing them for a response."



LEFT: Brian Britton told The GEM that new members would receive a warm welcome.

A local male voice choir has issued an appeal for new members to join its ranks.

Penarth Male Voice Choir once boasted a membership of 40 men, but now the choir musters just over half a dozen for its weekly practice session.

Mr Brian Britton told The GEM: "We need new members badly. At the age of 68, I am the youngest member."

"At one time we had a membership of between 35 and 40 people, but it has dwindled and we are now down to just seven."

"There are a lot of benefits to belonging to a choir. Firstly, there is good camaraderie and the chance to get out and about and perform at local events."

"We sing at special events, weddings, funerals - and earlier this

Penarth Male Voice Choir looking for new members

year performed at the launch of the Penarth lifeboat."

Brian stressed that the use of "lung power" was also good for fitness.

"It is also healthy for people - many men who are members of male voice choirs stay active and live into their nineties."

"We would welcome men of all ages, and they can come from any area. Currently, we have members from Penarth, Bridgend,

Fairwater and Dinas Powys."

Penarth Male Voice Choir was started on September 7, 1896 and its conductor was David Humphries. The first concert was held at St Andrew's Hall in the town.

The members meet at the British Legion Club in Penarth at 7.30pm on Wednesday evenings.

If you are interested in becoming a member, please call 02920 707233 for more information.

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TOO CLEVER FOR TV BRAINBOXES! Local WI members are victorious over the champion Eggheads



ABOVE: The Eggheads and Jeremy Vine with the Glamorgan Poppies (front row) after their victory. From left to right: Sally Mabey (captain), Mary Poland, Gwerfyl Gardner, Jean Smith, Liz Williams, and Linda Loveless (reserve).

FIRST there were the celebrated WI 'Calendar Girls', who achieved worldwide fame by stripping off for charity – now south Wales can boast of the WI quiz champions, who beat five of Britain's brainiest people on the BBC2 programme *Eggheads*!

In typically self-effacing WI tradition, Gwerfyl Gardner of Merthyr Mawr WI described the victory as down to "luck of the draw".

The team of five ladies, who attend the WIs of Culverhouse Cross, Coity, Merthyr Mawr, Pentrych and Llanblethian, netted the tidy prize of £11,000.

Eggheads is hosted by Jeremy Vine and in the show, a team of five players tries to beat the 'Eggheads', five of Britain's sharpest minds when it comes to rustling

by TIM CHAPMAN

up the sort of obscure fact that might stump the average viewer.

In their ranks are winners of *Mastermind*, *Brain of Britain*, *Fifteen to One* and *Who Wants to be a Millionaire*.

Gwerfyl Gardner told The GEM: "The WI team went up to Glasgow in January to film the programme, but it wasn't shown until last week."

"You are asked by the BBC not to let people know what happened on the day of the recording which is quite difficult!"

"We travelled up in January, the day before Cardiff Airport was closed due to the snow, and stayed overnight."

"Our team was called 'The Glamorgan Poppies' – the poppy is the emblem of Glamorgan WI."

"Although the programme lasts half an hour, the episode took twice as long to film because the participants answer the questions in a

separate studio.

"We all had to take three outfits and the production company then told us which was the most suitable to wear."

Gwerfyl pointed out that high definition broadcasts are also having an effect on how productions are put together.

"With HD, people have to have a lot more makeup, and a lot of trouble is taken in the way it all looks – HD shows every wrinkle!"

So how were the WI ladies able to beat the crack quiz team Eggheads?

Gwerfyl, the retired head of modern languages at Llantwit Major Comprehensive School, said: "I think it is the luck of the draw as to which questions come up."

"I was fortunate that one question had German content in it and I taught German."

Despite Gwerfyl's modesty, she has an impressive quiz pedigree

herself, having battled through Ann Robinson's barbed comments to win The Weakest Link a few years ago.

Gwerfyl added that she didn't see the programme when it was broadcast, but she has recorded it so that she can view at some stage in the future.

As for the prize money, she's enjoyed some short breaks away from home.

BARRY MEN'S FORUM NEWS

Learning how Cardiff (City's) population grew!

ON October 14, Barry Men's Forum were given a talk, with slides, by Dennis Morgan on Cardiff since 1800.

This covered Cardiff's transformation from a small market town and port to its role as the capital city of Wales.

The seeds were laid in the 19th Century when the Bute family built the docks that carried Welsh coal all over the world.

The population increased from 1,870 in 1871 to 165,000 a hundred years later, making Cardiff the fastest growing

borough anywhere in the United Kingdom.

In this period, fine houses were built in Charles Street and later in Windsor Place and Park Place. The Third Marquis of Bute renovated Cardiff Castle.

Entrepreneurs created new town centre businesses, such as James Howells and David Morgan stores. The first theatre was built in Crockherbtown (now modern Queen Street) in 1826, followed by the Empire Music Hall and the New Theatre.

Spectator sport became popular in the late Victorian era, with the Cardiff Arms Park created, after the course

of the River Taff was altered to build the South Wales Railway.

It became the home of rugby and cricket. In 1899, the Riverside Football club was formed.

In 1947, the Fifth Marquis of Bute presented Cardiff Castle to the city, and the gift included Bute Park and Pontcanna Fields.

For 500 years until 1853, the town hall stood in the middle of High Street to be replaced by Hodge House. Due to overcrowding, a new premises were sought, with the Marquis offering 59 acres in Cathays Park and the building of a new Cardiff Civic Centre.

Cardiff became a city in 1905 and 50 years later, a worthy capital for Wales.

The forum holds its AGM tonight, October 21, the speaker on the following week (October 28) will be Karl-James Langford. His topic, 'Our Archaeological and Historical Past.'

New Members will receive a warm welcome. Contact 029 20 594881.

Peter Westcott,
(chairman)

Gladstone schoolchildren support local families at Harvest Festival time



ABOVE: The 'harvest' collection with organiser Mrs Kilbride and some of the children who have contributed.

GLADSTONE Primary School children and their parents have made a huge difference this harvest time to the lives of others.

For the fourth year running, children have been asked to contribute baby clothing, food, nappies and other suitable items to be presented to Tai Hafan – a charitable housing association that provides housing and support services to vulnerable women and their children.

"We are really proud of everybody at Gladstone. The response, as always, has been fantastic and all our donations are really appreciated!" said Sarah Kilbride, a year-1 teacher.



Tracing your family tree

RHOOSE WI met at the village hall and the evening began with a talk by Mrs Glenys Care.

Her subject was genealogy and she described how to research family history, using examples from her own experience. She outlined the processes needed to gain access to public records and also pointed out the pitfalls to be encountered – such as name changes – which can make the search more difficult.

Her talk was most informative and enjoyable, particularly those aspects of social history mentioned.

The talk was followed by the business part of the evening. The president reminded members that the November meeting will be the annual general meeting and that nominations for committee members must be received before then.

Rhoose WI are to be

the Vale link hosts for 2011 and the programme of events has been provisionally agreed as follows: Tuesday, April 12, social evening, (the speaker to be confirmed later); July 14, tea party; December – Carol Service, to be held at the village hall.

Members reported how much they had enjoyed the trips to Fonnmon Castle and the Gloucester Canals, the lovely autumn weather contributing greatly to both occasions!

Planned events for October are; Lunch Club on October 15 at Illtyd's Restaurant, Llantwit Major; A skittles afternoon at Rhoose Social Club on Friday, October 22 at 2pm.

The meeting ended with the announcement of the competition winners, the raffle being won by Linda Thomas and the flower competition by Stella Hughes.

The annual general meeting will be held at the village hall, Stewart Road, Rhoose, on November 4 at 7.30pm.

CCTV operations

CCTV operators working under the umbrella of the Safer Vale Partnership assisted with four arrests and locating one missing person in the week ending October 17.

CCTV contacted the police on 38 occasions, with three arrests taking place on October 11; one for being wanted on warrant (Broad Street), another for theft (Holton Road) and the other for possession of drugs (Holton Road).

An additional arrest was made on October 12 for being wanted on warrant (Broad Street).

One missing person was located, safe and well, on Broad Street on October 12.

All crimes are alleged at the time of incident.

CHARITY QUIZ NIGHT

THE Barry committee of the Friends of Tenovus are holding a fun quiz at Barry Athletic Bowls Club on Wednesday, October 27 at 7.30pm.

Tickets are £5, refreshments included. For further information, contact 01446 733978.

BARRIVALE BRIDGE CLUB RESULTS

THE latest results from Barrivale are as follows:

Tuesday, October 5 – First, Celia Thomas and Huw Thomas with 59.03 per cent. In second were Kay Dyer and Mike Close (56.25), and in third were Alan Jones and Lyn Matthews (53.47). Celia and Huw also won on handicap.

Tuesday, October 12 – session one of the men's and ladies' pairs.

First, Tim Barsby and Mike Close with 60.71 per cent. Second were Joan Jenkins and Jane Brook (58.33) and third were Anne Johns and Tony Hall (55.36).

Joan and Jane won on handicap. New members are always welcome at Barrivale. For more information telephone 01446 733425.

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Barry man gets 20 months after violent attack

A LOCAL man was struck unconscious when he was robbed in Barry, Cardiff Crown Court has heard.

Jamie Pimm was taken to the University Hospital of Wales and treated for cuts, swellings, and bruising.

His attacker, Jacob Swan, 20, of Barry, admitted a charge of robbery and was sentenced to 20 months in a young offender institution.

Recorder Geraint Walters described him as "a violent nuisance".

He added: "If you don't take a grip soon, I

by AJ SICLUNA

think you could be going down for long stretches."

Prosecutor Stephen Harnes said Mr Pimm is a cannabis user.

On July 6, Swan asked him if he wanted a "smoke" and showed him something in foil for £20.

Mr Pimm smelt it and said he didn't want it and walked away.

Moments later, said Mr Harnes, Swan jumped out of some bushes and punched him in the face, knocking

him to the ground and took his wallet, containing £160.

After being arrested, Swan told the officer: "I hope your kids die" - comments which disturbed him, said Mr Harnes.

Swan was said to have convictions for assault, possession of an offensive weapon, causing actual bodily harm, violent disorder and possessing drugs.

Defence counsel Heath Edwards said: "No weapon was used. The injuries, though nasty, were not serious, and Mr Pimm made a full recovery. I accept Swan has an unattractive record."

ILLEGAL STAFF ARRESTED AT COWBRIDGE RESTAURANT

A COWBRIDGE restaurant has been raided by the Immigration Service and three staff have been detained.

The men were working in the restaurant, despite having no legal right to work in the UK.

Officers from the agency went to the Mughal Emperor, Stalling Down, Cowbridge, on Friday night (October 15).

After the immigration status of staff was checked, it was found that three Bangladeshi men who were preparing food in the kitchen had all entered the UK illegally.

The men, aged 29, 33 and 40, were taken to Cardiff Bay police station for further questioning before being transferred to immigration detention, where they remain pending removal from the UK.

The Mughal Emperor was issued with a civil penalty notice for employing illegal workers.

A spokesman for the Immigration Service said: "If the employer is unable to provide evidence that legally-required checks were carried out before giving the men jobs, a fine of up to £30,000 will be imposed."

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Patrols are to monitor youths

RESIDENTS living around the Batt's field park in Barry will be pleased to hear that the police, in conjunction with the Vale Council, have stepped up action to stop youth annoyance in the area, said a local councillor.

The issue has previously been raised at local PACT meetings. The police are to carry out regular patrols in the area.

Independent councillor Richard Bertin, who represents the area, said: "We have taken on board the concerns of local residents and will all be working together to ensure that we reduce the problem in the area."

Barry man is nominated for top care award after unplanned career switch

DYNAMISM, energy and compassion are three of the attributes which have earned Barry carpenter-turned-carer Gordon Black a nomination for a prestigious award.

Gordon has been recommended in the "exceptional newcomer" category at the Wales Care Awards, an event to be held at City Hall, Cardiff, on October 29.

He works for Greenbanks Homecare (Wales) Ltd in the town and the prize has been sponsored by Barclays Commercial.

Although he's only been in the job for just over a year, having previously been in the building trade, he's made a big impression and has moved to the role of a team leader.

When he was made redundant from his job as a carpenter, it proved a blessing in disguise. "Carers jobs were about the only ones around and I thought 'I can do that,'" recalled Gordon, 37, at his Barry home.

"I'd had experience of looking after my own mum and knew I could do the job. And I find it brilliant and rewarding. "I visit about 30

homes, mostly at Barry and Penarth, seeing people who need our help. When I make a cup of tea and see a smile on a face, that's good enough for me. There's nothing better than that," added Gordon, a Scotsman and the father of a five-year-old daughter.

His nomination was requested by his manager, co-ordinators and some of his colleagues, all of whom have been equally impressed.

"Gordon is very suited in a job role where he is involved with helping others to help themselves as he has a naturally caring and kind personality, with the ability to listen to people, show empathy and identify their needs"

Julie Baker, his office manager, said: "He began as a carer, which is a role that comes with a lot of responsibility and pressure, needing a person who has great patience and tact, and these are just some of the attributes he possesses."

"Gordon excelled within this role and as a result was promoted to a team leader, which demonstrates that he has the ability to deal with difficult situations, and also has his work and commitment in ensuring service users' needs are

always put first.

"Since starting with Greenbanks, the office has received many compliments from service users and his work colleagues, all complimenting him on his outstanding standard of work, his caring attitude and overall persona."

"Gordon is an asset to the company and I am delighted to have him as part of my team."

Mario Kreft, honorary chief executive of Care Forum Wales, said: "The Wales Care Awards is now firmly established as one of the highlights in the Welsh social care calendar."

"The dedication, professionalism and quality of the workforce within the care sector is, I am pleased to say, increasing and improving year on year."



Caring, Gordon Black

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Talk for the U3A

THE University of the Third Age (U3A) held a very informative meeting in the Phillip John room of the Barry Library on October 4.

Gwyneth Thomas of the National Osteoporosis Society spoke on the subject of osteoporosis. This was of great interest to all those present. She covered the problem in detail and offered sources of further information and assistance.

The next meeting of the U3A is a walk to be led by Mrs V Warlow entitled 'Sea and Country', on Friday, October 22, meeting in the car park of Llantwit Major Station at 10.30am.

For further information please contact the walk leader, 01446 730707.

Ray Price

COFFEE MORNING

A CHARITY coffee morning will be held at the Lesser Hall, All Saints Church, Penarth, on Saturday, October 23, 10am-noon.

Entry is 50p including coffee or tea.

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'Loyalty card would boost independent businesses' - local councillor

A councillor who fears local centres could become 'ghost towns', has called on the Vale Council to investigate the economic benefits for independent businesses if a loyalty card scheme was launched.

Coun Rob Curtis, who represents the Gibbonsdown ward in Barry, told The GEM: "Small local businesses are going bust all the time in Barry and the wider Vale. Our town

centres are being turned into deserts of charity shops, banks and multi-national supermarkets.

"I want to see the Vale Council work with our local town councils and chambers of trade to create a local loyalty card scheme which would encourage shoppers back to their town centres.

"These are tough economic times for small businesses and I do not want our once proud town centres turned into ghost towns, with large numbers of shops board-

ed up.

"If we work in partnership we can help our small independent businesses fight back against the big multi-nationals."

Coun Curtis pointed out that other areas of the country had considered the approach to help independent traders.

"Across much of the country local loyalty schemes are springing up, which aim to get customers to come back to small local shops and spend on local produce."

The chairman of Cowbridge Chamber of Trade, Alun John, said he welcomed the fact that Vale councillors were thinking of innovative ways of stimulating business in local communities, but said there were complexities to card schemes.

"It's nice that councillors are thinking of ways of supporting businesses

like the Vale loyalty card idea.

"We have been looking at a loyalty card in Cowbridge for two years now, but the more you look into it, the more complicated it becomes."

He explained that giving a discount of say, 10 per cent, for using the card had different implications for different sorts of business. Even in Cowbridge with approximately 50 retailers, it was difficult to devise a scheme that would work effectively for such diverse business concerns.

He also pointed out that some businesses already rewarded their long-standing customers with a discount if they were making bulk purchases.

He added: "I wonder how realistic a scheme like this is, bearing in mind there are administration costs, and councils are looking to cut budgets."

MIND in the Vale of Glamorgan's Western Vale project will be holding an Autumn fayre, 10am - 3pm on Saturday, October 23, at The Llantonian Hall, Llantwit Major.

There will be cakes, hot drinks, snacks, handmade crafts, face painting, bric a brac, clothes, books and much more. Free entry - all welcome! For more information, contact 01446 79 6416.

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Email: scornwell-shaw@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk



Volunteers meet up to launch Poppy Appeal 2010

OPPOSITE left to right: RAF veteran, Mike Walker, current Serviceman, Sgt David Corr and ATC Staff Cadet, Warrant Officer Michael Groom.

Mike Walker of Llantwit Major received assistance for his family last year, after going through a difficult period in his life. Mike said: "I know only too well how valuable new volunteers are to the Poppy Appeal. If it wasn't for the generous people of south Wales donating their time to assist in fundraising, the Legion wouldn't have been able to offer me the support it did."

Mike continued: "I took part in the Cardiff Poppy Fun Run this summer to raise funds for the Appeal. My twin brother Keith, who served in the Marines, myself and my oldest daughter Holly, are currently assisting the Poppy volunteer recruitment campaign by coordinating new volunteers who come forward this year and placing them in a role which suits them."

"We get a wide range of volunteers, some can only do weekends, others can do a one-off two hour slot while others can assist on a more regular and flexible basis. We welcome everyone!"

In south Wales, there are more than 180 volunteer Poppy Appeal organisers dotted about and they have many collectors who support them each October and November during the appeal. Those that come forward will be put in touch with their local volunteer organiser.

The 2010 Poppy Appeal fundraising target is £36 million - £2 million more than last year's record-setting amount of £34 million. The appeal funds the welfare services that The Royal British Legion provide to the British Armed Forces, past and present and their family members and carers. The Legion spends more than £1.4 million a week on delivering its welfare work.

Those interested in volunteering for the Poppy Appeal are urged to telephone 02920 230216, email swpoppyappeal@britishlegion.org.uk, or join 'The South Wales Poppy Appeal' Facebook group and leave a message.

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'VOLUNTARY SECTOR MUST NOT SUFFER 'UNFAIR REDUCTION' IN FUNDING LEVELS,' says regional AM Chris Franks

by TIM CHAPMAN

AS The GEM was going to press this week the Coalition was announcing its strategy regarding the 'Comprehensive Spending Review' – a euphemism for where the axe will fall in spending over the coming months.

In anticipation of the cuts, one Plaid Cymru regional Assembly Member has written to the Vale Council insisting that the voluntary sector should not be disproportionately hit when funding restrictions start to bite.

Chris Franks, Plaid's finance spokesman, told The GEM he had contacted the council's chief executive, John Maitland Evans for reassurance because many voluntary organisations were partly funded by local authorities.

Mr Franks, a former Vale councillor himself, explained: "The 'Comprehensive Spending Review' will decide the amount of money available to the Welsh government.

"I have met the Wales Council for Voluntary Action to discuss their concerns about the implications of proposals on the voluntary sector. As we are all aware, the financial pressures on local authorities currently are considerable.

"The voluntary sector saves councils money. A small grant goes a long way. However, council bosses can take an easy

decision to cut grants to say a pensioners' group without looking at their own departments.

"It is clear that many difficult decisions will have to be made in order to face up to the financial demands placed on local authorities. The whole public sector will have to play its part in dealing with the reduced resources.

"I am looking for reassurances that the voluntary sector will not face an unfair share of any reduction. I am calling for steps to ensure that any reduction in financial support to the voluntary sector will not be in excess of what is reasonable."

Mr Franks cited Caerphilly Council as a local authority that was attempting to wrestle with the issue.

"Caerphilly Council is engaging with the voluntary sector. The Plaid led authority is seeking proposals from the voluntary sector on where the council could reduce expenditure, areas of waste that could be put to better use, ways of co-ordinating council work with the voluntary sector to reduce bureaucracy, and where functions could be undertaken by the sector."

The Vale's chief executive John Maitland Evans said that he was surprised Mr Franks had voiced his concerns to the press after he had responded personally to him on October 8.

"Mr Franks is correct in his assertion that these are difficult times for public and voluntary sector organisations. However, I would hope that most people will appreciate that until the government announces its budget proposals we are unable to give a definite answer on how this might affect our relationship with the voluntary sector.

"I'd like to assure Mr Franks that the council will be looking to maintain the most effective and efficient delivery of its core services, no matter who provides them. The council operates a 'Voluntary Sector Joint Liaison Committee',

engaging with voluntary sector and health representatives, and full discussions will take place once we know the full scale of the financial challenge ahead of us all."

Mr Maitland Evans added that Mr Franks and his colleagues at the Welsh Assembly would, in part, be arbiters of the funding that went to the council.

"In his capacity as AM, Mr Franks has a key role in determining the scale of funding to local government. I trust he will use his good offices to best effect in this respect, given that almost three-quarters of our funding comes from WAG revenue support."

Vale MP backs lollipop quest

VALE MP Alun Cairns has asked local primary schools across the Vale to nominate their favourite lollipop person to become the 'UK Lollipop Person of the Year 2010'.

The competition, run by Kwik Fit Insurance, highlights the importance of school crossing patrols, and Mr Cairns feels that they play a vital role in school safety and are a huge support to pupils, parents and schools.

Mr Cairns said: "The Lollipop Person of the Year award recognises the hard work and dedication of the men and women who patrol our school crossings on a daily basis, whatever the weather.

"It's a great opportunity for children and parents to show how their lollipop person makes a real difference to their journey to school and to show their support by voting."

The Lollipop Person of the Year will win £500 and the winning school will be presented with a cheque for £3,000 to spend on school equipment, while the 12 regional winners from across the UK will receive £100 and each of the 12 schools will be awarded with £500.

Nominations for the Lollipop Person of the Year Awards 2010 will close on Friday, November 19. More information and entry details can be found at www.bestlollipop.co.uk.

AN EARLY START TO HELP RUNNERS



ABOVE: Staff Sergeant Steve Wood, Barry Detachment Commander, and Sergeant Jeni Green, Penarth Detachment Commander, with cadets from Penarth and Barry.

Vale Cadets on 'dawn patrol' for Barnardo's half marathon

ARMY Cadets from Barry and Penarth were out in force for the Barnardo's Cardiff Half Marathon, on Sunday morning.

More than 50 Cadets, from Cardiff, Barry and Penarth, were up before dawn to provide important support by storing, organising and looking after bags and other luggage for the 15,500 participants in the half marathon.

Major Mick Burrows, Company Commander of A Company, Dyfed and Glamorgan Army Cadets, said: "We are delighted to help in community activities, particularly for such important causes, and our cadets have also had a great time."

The Barnardo's Half Marathon is the largest single multi-participant charity event in Wales, with this year being the biggest marathon to date. It is expected to

raise several millions of pounds for various charities, and particularly for Barnardo's, the children's charity. The Cadets' support was so well received that they have been invited to come back and organise the baggage tents for next year. For more information about the Army Cadets, which is for boys and girls aged 12 to 18, visit www.armycadets.com.

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PACT meetings

BUTTRILLS PACT meeting is at Philip John Community Room, Barry on Thursday, October 21 at 6.30pm.

ILLTYD PACT meeting at The Mount Sorrel Hotel, Porthkerry Road, Barry, on Wednesday, October 27, at 7pm.

BARUC PACT meet-

ing at St Francis Millennium Centre, Park Road, Barry on Thursday, October 28 at 7pm.

CADOC PACT meeting at Palmerston Community and Learning Centre, on Wednesday, November 3 at 7pm.

WENVOE PACT Community Council Meeting on Thursday, October 21 at 7.30pm.

L L A N T W I T MAJOR PACT meeting at Llantwit Major Leisure Centre, on Tuesday, October 26 at 7pm.

BONVILSTON coffee and chat meeting at the Red Lion, Bonvilston on Tuesday, October 26 at 10.30am.

PETERSTON-SUPER-ELY coffee and chat meeting on Monday, October 25 at the Three Horseshoes at 5.30pm.

PENARTH PACT Contact local Neighbourhood Policing on: Penarth 02920 527361 or log onto www.ourbobby.com.

Roadworks UPDATE

PONTYPRIDD Street – junction with Mount Pleasant – On-going repair of unsafe structure.

SEA View Drive, Ogmore by Sea – Until November 15, temporary traffic control will be in operation to allow for gas main replacement works.

EAGLESWELL Road between junction Monmouth Way and Leigh Close, Llantwit Major – until December 3, road closure will be in operation to allow bridge works.



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Two local boys dead after late night car crash

RIGHT: Floral tributes at the scene of the accident.

TWO valley communities are devastated after two young men died when a car they were travelling in overturned on the road from Blackmill to Nantymoel.

Following the fatal road traffic collision, on the A4061 at Blackmill at approximately 4am on Sunday, October 17, family members paid tribute to the two young men.

The collision involved a single vehicle, a new model white Vauxhall Corsa. Five local males were in the vehicle while it was travelling north in the direction of Blackmill when it went out of control.

James Davies, aged 19, from Ogmere Vale and Michael Griffiths,

aged 19 from Cwm Felin, Blackmill, were passengers and tragically died as a result of the collision.

James' mother Julie said: "James was employed as a youth worker at Wyndham Boys Club, Ogmere Vale, and was a former pupil of Ogmere Comprehensive School."

"He was a popular and well-known member of the community, played flanker for Nantymoel RFC and as a schoolboy played at district level."

"James was a much-loved son, brother, nephew and grandson. He will be missed by his family and friends, who are all heartbroken."

Michael's father Robert said: "Michael was a fabulous son, brother, friend, colleague and team mate."



ABOVE: Michael Griffiths.



ABOVE: James Davies.

"We are devastated by this loss. Michael made me so proud; the best son anyone could wish for."

"I couldn't have asked for a better son."

His grandparents, Lyndon and Pat, run the Blackmill village post office.

Eynyd Lock, the chairman of the Ogmere Valley Community Council, told The GEM that all five in the car had been from the valley.

She said: "Everyone is in shock and a cloud hangs over the valley. Two boys have been taken from us and everyone is grieving with the families."

"A terrible thing has happened and our hearts

go out to them"

Police are appealing for anyone who may have seen the vehicle being driven prior to the collision, or who may have seen the vehicle or its occupants in Bridgend town centre during the evening of Saturday, October 16.

A 19-year-old male from the Bridgend area has been arrested in connection to the incident, and has been bailed pending further enquiries.

Anyone with information is asked to contact South Wales Police on 101 or alternatively, call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.



Penarth town council loses £5,000 after local publisher is wound-up

COUNCIL taxpayers in Penarth are counting the cost of the collapse of a publishing firm.

by JAYNE ISAAC

no money for any creditors.

A report on this was presented to councillors at their meeting on Tuesday night.

Clerk Sian Bowden, who was not with the council at the time Kenrich collapsed, said that the council had dealt with the firm for some years and a number of previous town guides had been produced.

Although the costs of publishing these is

normally covered by advertising revenue, the town council had decided to take out an advert for itself in the guide, and also ordered extra copies to be published, so that there would be enough to distribute to every household in the town.

She added that the town council had subsequently altered the way it dealt with town guides and now worked with a different company which produced the guides for free, using advertising revenue to cover costs.

Police grants

DONATIONS are available to local groups from the South Wales Police Authority and applications are sought from clubs, organisations or groups who "tackle the fear of crime".

The grants will be provided from the Police Property Act Fund, which the police authority is responsible for distributing. Property which comes into the possession of the police in connection with a crime and where the owner cannot be found can be sold, with the money being kept in what is known as the Police Property Act Fund.

The same is true for property which has been forfeited by convicted persons by order of a court, as it was used or intended for use in a crime.

The chair of the police authority, Coun Russell Roberts, said: "The authority is dedicated to helping small clubs and organisations across south Wales to help tackle the fear of crime."

Applications must be submitted by November 1.

Forms and guidance can be obtained from the Police Authority website at www.southwalespoliceauthority.org.uk.

A maximum of £2,500 can be granted to each group. Groups who have previously benefited by the fund have included neighbourhood watch associations and boys and girls clubs.

Gardens show autumn trees at their very best

SOME of the Friends of Dyffryn Gardens Society visited Hergest Croft Gardens in Herefordshire recently.

These gardens hold the national collections of maples and birches, and the autumn colours showed to perfection against the beautiful views of the Welsh Marches and the charming Arts and Crafts period house.



ABOVE: Friends of Dyffryn Gardens Secretary Barbara Hodges and Cynthia Merrett in Hergest Croft.

Photo by Heather March.

MP says 'Citizens Advice' is Big Society in action

THE local MP Alun Cairns was the guest speaker at the annual meeting of the Vale Citizens Advice Bureau.

The meeting heard that the bureau had enjoyed a busy and successful year, helping thousands of local residents.

The new outreach in Llantwit Major has been a success and there are also plans to open an office in Penarth.

Mr Cairns complimented CAB on its work

locally and said that it was a perfect example of the Big Society at work.

He explained: "People have been asking me what the Prime Minister meant by the Big Society and I illustrate it by quoting the example of organisations like CAB where thousands of volunteers throughout the UK give up their time to train and then man the bureaux, dealing with hundreds of thousands of complaints and queries raised by the people of this country."

"It is an invaluable

service which relies totally on the commitment and good citizenship of the people involved.

"There are countless instances of people up and down this country being willing to work for no pay for the greater good of society."

Mr Cairns pointed out that if CAB did not exist, a government department somewhere would be tasked with providing this service and the chances are that it would prove to be grossly inefficient, wasteful and ruinously expensive.

He went on: "There is a role for charities, community organisations and even private companies in getting involved in the Big Society concept."

"The National Grid has set up a scheme to work with young offenders where they have given them a chance to train as engineers and get a job."

"Out of 1,000 young people on the scheme, just three have re-offended which only goes to show that if you run these schemes properly, you can give young people a future who may otherwise have led lives of crime."

"I know that people throughout the Vale are keen to get involved with their communities and want to make things better and I will do my utmost to give them all the support they need."

Confidence course

VALE of Glamorgan Genesis, a group aiming to help people overcome barriers into work or training, is holding a free confidence building course, beginning November 4 from 1pm - 3pm at the Western Vale Integrated Children's Centre (WVICC), Llantwit Major.

To find out more, contact 01446 709221.

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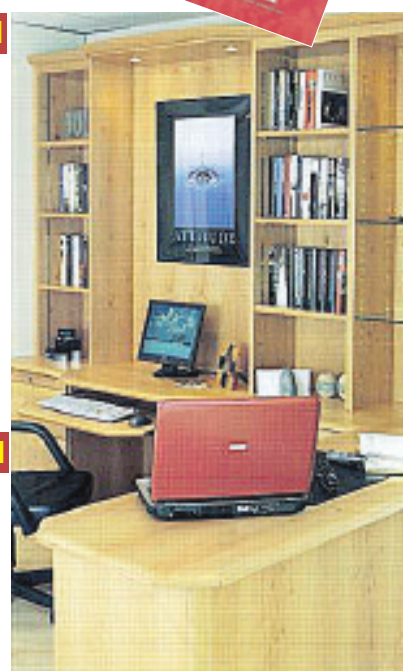


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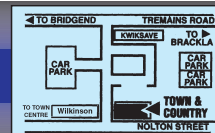


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We have already started our tenth anniversary celebrations by completing the three peaks challenge and are looking forward to the year ahead. There have been many success stories over the years and it was pleasing in August to be able to celebrate the best examination results ever for the school. Warmest congratulations to the pupils and staff. We now aim for the next summit! (Dr Dylan Jones)



In ten years the school has been inspected twice with the latest inspection by ESTYN in November 2008 pronouncing that Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg has many outstanding features including outstanding teaching, exceptional pupil behaviour and dynamic leadership combined with excellent results.

As a school, we are proud of:

A caring and supporting environment which has been created within the school for staff and pupils.

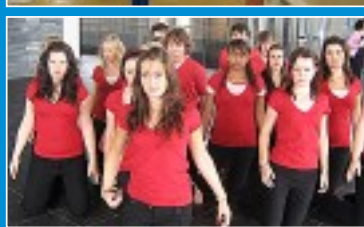
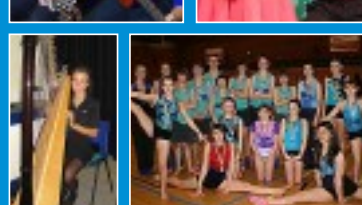
Modern purpose built amenities for the 21st century including video conferencing suite, numerous IT suites, extensive facilities for physical education and the performing arts.

Tremendous sporting, musical & theatrical successes. The school is a familiar name on the national Eisteddfod stage winning choral, dramatic and folk dancing accolades. Pupils studying Drama have performed at the Senedd in Cardiff Bay and in the past three years, pupils have successfully auditioned to become members of the National Youth Theatre of Wales. The school has staged many memorable musical performances, the most recent having been High School Musical in December 2009. Outstanding sporting successes include thirty five individuals who have represented Wales at wide range of events, ranging from cricket to gymnastics. 2007 was a vintage year for Athletics as three teams were Welsh Schools Champions. In the past ten years, at least one football team from the school per year has won the Cardiff and Vale cup, with the 2004-8 teams winning the cup five years in succession. Hockey, netball and rugby teams have also won regional and national events.

Wide-ranging extra-curricular activities programme which include visits abroad and to the local vicinity, a school exchange and enriching experiences for the pupils within the school day as guest speakers are invited, fund-raising events are supported and skills days are held on a regular basis.

A vibrant sixth form: Since its first year in 2005, the sixth form has grown from strength to strength, offering a broad curriculum catering for each individual's needs. The introduction of the Welsh Baccalaureate qualification has proven to be a popular addition with a resounding 100% pass rate at Advanced Level in 2010. Three pupils have progressed to Oxbridge for the first time this year.

Excellent academic record: Examination results continue to improve and records are broken annually. 2010 was a record breaking year with 90% of year 11 pupils gaining A*-C in five or more subjects at GCSE whereas their counterparts in the sixth form attained an amazing 99% A-C pass rate in the equivalent of two or more subjects. The majority have continued with their studies in further education, specialising in a variety of subjects including medicine and law.



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A warm welcome is extended to former pupils and friends of the school to celebrate the tenth anniversary with us in a concert on the 5th of December and a ball on the 18th of June.

New plan to help wildlife thrive throughout Vale



THE Vale Council has adopted a new local biodiversity action plan for the area.

The action plan, which has been reviewed over the past year, sets out the work and aims of the Local Biodiversity Partnership. It identifies animals and the habitats that are important in the Vale, whether that is of European, national or local importance, and identifies opportunities for work to be done to help them.

Coun Anthony Ernest, cabinet member for tourism and leisure and the Vale Council biodiversity champion, said: "If anyone is interested in finding out more about the action plan, they can collect a copy of the 'Wildlife in the Vale of Glamorgan' booklet from our libraries or council offices or request a copy from the ecology team at the council."

For more information, visit www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk or call 01446 700111.

Ty Hafan winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D640.

● **£2,000:** 266029.
● **The rollover, which now stands at £3,000, was not won this week.**
● **£10:** 481286, 256497, 586813, 672058, 728255, 770126, 448226, 863959, 210271, 639249, 839919, 605921, 816005, 670970, 788774, 191191, 761423, 144359, 629548, 307291.

● **£5:** 886150, 616669, 513397, 109799, 236706, 370159, 384568, 101707, 201064, 531435, 312040, 312491, 686833, 818964, 331019, 827413, 620330, 546879, 708866, 423302, 584168, 537668, 556687, 839707, 635336, 624855, 232170, 502793, 648049, 252674, 102328, 435110, 372767, 649960, 741030, 801984, 982124, 811016, 784294, 599462, 880821, 155433, 363694, 708897, 531543, 499880, 261102, 159913, 739556, 158202, 163167, 272142, 261672, 186228, 470331, 364404, 850422, 523875, 854416, 878587.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please call telephone 02920 672062.

ABOVE: Left to right: Steve White, chair of Vale Biodiversity Partnership; Richard May, ecologist; Coun Anthony Ernest and Liz Stewart, assistant ecologist, with copies of the booklet.

The Vale Council informs tenants about 2011 ballot

EVERY council house tenant in the Vale has just received a newsletter produced by the council to update them on plans to hand over the housing stock to a new housing association.

The newsletter assures tenants that they will make the decision about what will happen in a secret ballot.

The council has set up a new not-for-profit housing organisation called Heritage Coast Homes. This would take over the houses and manage them if the transfer of stock goes ahead.

A shadow management board has been set up consisting of four tenants and four Vale councillors.

If the ballot is in favour of transfer, the Welsh Assembly Government will then have to approve the plan.

The newsletter promises a "significant amount of investment" in homes and improved services if the housing organisation takes over, because it will be able to access funds that the council is not eligible for.

The council points out that none of their 3,949 houses meets the Welsh Housing Quality standard laid down by WAG.

The ballot is planned for early next year.

If tenants reject the handover, the houses will remain in the ownership of the Vale Council.

Glaucoma meeting

THE Bridgend Eye Unit at the Princess of Wales Hospital, is holding a glaucoma patient support group meeting on Friday, November 26.

The patient group was set up two years ago to support patients diagnosed and undergoing treatment for glaucoma.

Karen Phillips, the ABM lead orthoptist for glaucoma service said:

"This is a free, informal meeting and is open to patients, their carers and partners from Princess of Wales, Neath Port Talbot and Singleton Hospitals.

"The patient support group meets six monthly for general support. It's a chance to meet patients living with the same eye disease, watch a video on some aspect of eye care, hear a talk and discuss the latest issues in glaucoma.

"The group also helps counsel each other during the difficult milestones of the Glaucoma pathway."

The meeting takes place on Friday, November 26 from 1pm - 3pm at Bridgend Eye Unit, Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend. For further information contact Karen Phillips on 01656 752179.

CHRISTINE'S 'BEARY' NICE DONATION TO THE NSPCC

CHRISTINE PRITCHARD, a Dinas Powys Village Show committee member, has spent the last few months making hand-knitted teddies, and last month she was successful in selling all her stock to children and parents at the village show.

Christine also took the opportunity of promoting knitting to the young admirers, so that next year a similar stall may be present with even more teddies.

The teddies could be seen in the gardens climbing the shrubs and sitting with the children on a knitted patch blanket while watching the Punch and Judy Show.

Christine will be donating £75 to the NSPCC, all the proceeds from the sale of the teddies.



ABOVE: Christine with her teddies.



Grant for choir

PORTHCAWL Town Council has given a donation of £250 to Porthcawl Male Choir to help them with the purchase of music.

The grant was made in recognition of the choir's contribution to the social and charitable activities of the town.

OXFAM in Cowbridge need volunteers for their charity shop, and anyone interested should telephone 01446 773019.

Dyspraxia support

THE next meeting of the Vale Dyspraxia Support Group will be held on Monday, November 1, at 7.30 pm in the Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry.

The group supports children with dyspraxia (as well as related conditions such as ADHD, Asperger's, dyslexia) and their parents and carers.

The Vale Dyspraxia Support Group provides advice and information as well as an opportunity to exchange experiences. The group also runs social activities and a laptop loan programme.

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Official opening ceremony as new store opens to serve both Bridgend and the Vale



ABOVE: Cutting the tape at the SCATS opening.



ABOVE: Pupils from Coety Primary School with their paintings.

THE official opening of the new SCATS store in Bridgend was performed by the deputy borough mayor, Coun Chris Michalides (pictured below with SCATS chairman, David Burke).

The new Farm and Country store on the Brackla Industrial Estate also welcomed pupils from nearby Coety Primary School, who had painted pictures on the theme 'What the countryside means to us'.

The winning picture was by Erin Ward, and the school received SCATS vouchers for £150 to help its new gardening club.

SCATS is holding a family open day on Saturday, October 30, 10am-4pm, with special guests Warren Gatland and Julia Bradbury.



Fundraiser to help Tobias (6)

HALLOWEEN will be ushered in early at the West End Club and this year's good cause is six-year-old Tobias Lunnun.

On October 30, The Salty Dog Experience will be providing an old record club disco and there will be tunes from the 60s, 70s and 80s to keep the dance floor full.

For those wishing to really enter into the spooky spirit there will be prizes for best fancy dress. Entry is £2 and the fun starts at 7.30pm.

Committee member Jeff Heathfield said: "We hold the event every year. It is always

a great evening, and there is a good turn out and a big party atmosphere.

"We give all the door takings to a local cause and this year it will go to Tobias Lunnun."

Tobias aged six, was seriously injured in a road accident and is now paralysed.

His mum Fiona said: "The local community has been brilliant. Sometimes Barry gets bad publicity but I think it's a brilliant place full of brilliant people. I can't wait to get Tobias back home."

If anyone would like to contribute to the Tobias Lunnun fund, they can contact Rob Salter on 07815 517756.

The 'sad situation' of Cadoxton House develops

IT is with a heavy heart that I write this letter on behalf of the three Cadoc councillors about the debacle that has beset the refurbishment of Cadoxton House.

As local councillors we strive to retain Cadoxton House and bring it back into public use but regrettably our hopes have been dashed.

We have recently witnessed the removal of the remaining wall that was all that was left after the builders went in to start the 'refurbishment project'.

Although nothing now remains of the former Cadoxton House, we are adamant that any replacement building the council erects should be as close to the original external design as possible, and that is what we are now trying to achieve.

I am not going to try and justify what has happened to the building when the work started on the site, because I can't.

As councillors we were always told that the fires and vandalism to the empty building had done a lot of damage to it, but I don't think anyone expected to see the walls come down when the builders moved in, initially leaving just one wall remaining.

Although we have been told that when the

builders moved in they found the structure to be unsafe and incapable of being renovated, we are not satisfied to leave it there and we are still awaiting answers to our many other questions.

We will not rest until a full investigation is carried out into what happened with this project and look to achieve a successful way forward and see a new Cadoxton House rise again from this.

We had been endeavouring throughout this development for the council officers to issue newsletters to the residents in the surrounding area, to inform them of the previous progress of the scheme, but we also accept that this may have not been as good as it could have been, despite our continual intervention and requests. We are adamant that from now on, local residents are kept informed of the next steps in this saga, which is likely to include planning permission - as the building no longer exists.

We hope that progress will commence soon and that the funding previously obtained via the Welsh Assembly for the redevelopment will still be available, and bring this desperately sad situation to a swift conclusion.

Councillors Anne Moore, Fred Johnson and Neil Moore.

Readers' Letters

THE COLUMN YOU WRITE

GEM DIAMOND LETTER

THE GEM IS AWARDING A £20 SCATS' VOUCHER TO THE WRITER SEE SCATS COUNTRYSTORE OPENING OPPOSITE

'RABBITS WERE CERTAINLY NOT MEANT TO BE IMPRISONED'

LAST year, I acquired a rabbit from someone who could no longer look after it - I'd never had a rabbit before and I only took on this one because I felt so sorry for it.

The rabbit had been living a lonely, bored and cold life, outside in a hutch that had become nothing more than a miserable prison.

There had been two rabbits, but sadly, one had already died of hypothermia.

For a very short time the rabbit lived outside because I was totally ignorant of her needs, but I remedied this by researching on the internet.

I learned that rabbits can make good house pets. By now it was winter and I just couldn't stand the thought of her out there in the cold while I, my cats, and dog were warm and pampered indoors. So one cold day I dragged her and the hutch into the kitchen, flung open the door of her hutch, and vowed never to

imprison her in there ever again.

I already had a couple of cats that used a litter tray, and I'd read that rabbits could be house-trained in much the same way as cats. So I put a tray of clean cat litter in the hutch and she used it straight away and has used it consistently ever since. Yes, we had a couple of accidents, but remarkably few.

It took months for her to leave the hutch and she just watched with interest as life went on around her. Eventually, she explored the kitchen, then the living room, and finally upstairs. She now has the run of the entire house and is also let out into the safety of an enclosed garden for a couple of hours most days, so her life is pretty fulfilled compared to how it was.

However, with the aid of a stair gate, and with electric flexes in mind, I do shut her in the kitchen at night, but I never, ever shut her in the hutch.

The day my rabbit started tossing her head and running around me in circles in such obvious joy that I had walked into the room, was the day I had my reward.

I don't know who it was that had the bright idea of taking rabbits from their natural environment and putting them in a prison in which they can barely stretch their legs, let alone run around, but I hope he or she sleeps well at night.

An animal lover, St Athan

'Remove hazards at Old Harbour'

I WAS interested to read your article regarding safety signs being placed around the Old Harbour area, and I can't help thinking, however, that they are "treating the symptom and not the cause".

Anyone with a minimum amount of experience in dealing with accidents knows you remove the hazard to reduce the risk.

What can be more appealing to young people than old boats to explore and play on, and

the Old harbour has more than its share of 'wrecks'. Yes, I agree signs will tell everyone (who stops to read them) of the dangers, but will they actually stop young people wanting to explore?

If councillors Curtis and Cox are serious about making that area safe, they should take the appropriate action to clear the Old Harbour of those eyesores.

It would also have the effect of giving visitors to Barry Island a much more pleasant first impression when driving over the causeway.

Kevin Ewington, Barry

Bad news for pigeons!

MY wife and I woke recently to look out of our bedroom window to find what we think is a female

Sparrowhawk devouring a pigeon in our garden.

We were both very excited so grabbed the camera and started snapping. It did not move, even when we went downstairs and looked out of our patio doors.

It was just four feet away and looked amazing, the sort of thing you only see at the Welsh Hawking Centre.

It stayed for a while until the neighbour's cat climbed across the fence and scared it away. I tried to fly with said pigeon but dropped it in the garden.



The sparrowhawk searches for another pigeon.

While eating our dinner it returned to finish the pigeon off, leaving us to clear away all the feathers. I thought that was the last we would see of it, but yet when I woke again this morning it was back in the garden, flying from fence to fence across the garden and walking around the grass, so I imagine it will be back to devour another pigeon someday.

Giles Herbert, Barry

Chief executive's response fails to convince

WHY am I not surprised by Mr Maitland Evans' reply to Mr Bryn Evans in The GEM of October 14?

He has chosen both to avoid the issues raised, and to ignore the widespread public discontent at the sky-high salaries of council chief executives, some of which has emanated even from Downing Street!

Mr Maitland Evans hides behind "employment specialists".

Mr Maitland Evans tells us (wholly irrelevantly) of "the faith that local people have in their elected representatives".

There is clearly some lack of faith in the top echelons of the Vale Council.

DW Gerrard, Cowbridge

VIEW COUNCIL'S SPENDING ONLINE

IN June this year, I asked the Vale Council, through the new procedure whereby members of the public can ask questions of the council, to publish its spending above £500 on all goods and services.

The Leader of the council, Coun Gordon Kemp, responded by saying it would com-

mence by September. I congratulate the Vale council on implementing this initiative by recently making the information available on its website.

This is an important step towards being open and transparent and will allow the public the opportunity to scrutinise where some of their money is going.

Well done and let us see some similar initiatives along these lines.

Dennis Harkus, Barry

Reader's Barry Railway stamp

I READ with interest an article in The GEM on September 30 concerning railway stamps by Mike Wilcock.

I have had in my possession for many years a stamp relating to the Barry Railway.

It is 1 1/4 inches square and must have been the top right hand

stamp of a sheet as it is only perforated on the left and bottom pages.

It is in green print on a now discoloured white paper. It is a two penny stamp.

Across the top of it reads "Barry," across the bottom it reads "Railway." Within a circle, it reads "Fee for conveyance of single post letters by railway."

The "2d" is in the centre of this circle.

There is a number printed in black across the "2d" - no. 9394. There is also a pencil mark 12/5(?) which I think would be a cancellation mark.

It would be interesting to know if any others are still in existence and how old it is.

Kenneth Jury, Ely, Cardiff

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Holding onto the best in our public services as we prepare to face the Spending Review

WE have been preparing for a tough budget for some time, but the reality of 'how tough' became clear on Wednesday with the announcement of the UK Government's Spending Review including the 'block grant' settlement for Wales.

We have been working on tough planning assumptions and scenarios over the past nine months identifying our priorities for the Draft Budget, and as Finance Minister for Wales, which I will publish on November 17.

I will appear before the Assembly's Finance Committee the following day, and all Assembly Committees will scrutinise the draft budget with Ministers, leading to the presentation of a final Budget for approval in January/February 2011.

We have taken a distinctive approach in setting our priorities, choosing to safeguard frontline services – schools, skills, secondary and community healthcare. During my pre-Budget consultations with the public, private and voluntary sectors I have discussed these priorities.

It was welcome to receive positive feedback from the private sector last week for our

commitment to investing in skills, so vital to the economic renewal agenda and to our efforts to support our young people as they face the uncertainties of future skills and jobs prospects at this time.

We are also determined to maintain our universal benefits. The call to protect concessionary fares has been strong at every meeting held across Wales, including disabled people like the members of Vale People First, who told me that the concessionary fares are vital to enable them to be independent, keep healthy and access services and social contact.

Of course, our concessionary fares policy also benefits their carers/companions. There are 650,000 concessionary pass holders in Wales.

The provision of free breakfasts in 22 primary schools across the Vale enables children to start the day with a nutritious breakfast, followed by structured play and activities to provide a healthy and positive start to the school day.

The scheme also provides free pre-school childcare, and jobs for all those who work in the Welsh Assembly Government free breakfast scheme.

Free swimming for elderly people in the school term time and in the holidays for children

ASSEMBLY NOTES



by Jane Hutt AM
(Assembly Minister for Business and Budget)

is also proving to be beneficial for the health and well-being of both age groups, as well as providing business for our leisure centres.

The Assembly Government is committed to ensuring our spending priorities work to lessen the impact of cuts on the most vulnerable in our society, and to safeguard the fragile economic recovery.

We will continue to target our resources where they can most effectively tackle poverty and inequality as well as promote economic renewal and sustainable development, but the degree of protection for these areas will be determined by the 'block grant' from Westminster.

Last week, the National Assembly for Wales voted unanimous-

ly, across all political parties, in support of a motion I tabled, welcoming the final report from the Independent Commission on Funding led by Professor Gerry Holtham and his team of economists.

The Holtham Commission recommended that an improved funding formula for Wales should be introduced by the UK Government with a 'funding floor' established to halt the squeeze on the allocations of funding to Wales via the Barnett formula.

This has led to an estimated £300m shortfall in our funding allocations via the block grant from the UK Government. That is why the vote was so significant and I was able to pass that news on to the Chief Secretary to the Treasury the following day to show the strength of unity we have in Wales.

We are playing our part in budget deficit reduction, but we have been seeking a fair settlement, given our needs and our funding base.

However, we have been preparing for these tougher times by taking a radical look at how we work in the public sector, streamlining back office functions, driving efficiencies through collaborative procurement, redesigning frontline services with more col-

laboration between local authorities and the voluntary sector.

This is already saving money and offering better services as I described in my statement to the Assembly this week, following my 'Community Counts' pre budget tour.

As we see the Foundation Phase rolling out across Wales, I constantly meet headteachers, staff and parents who say thank goodness you got the money for this pioneering early years education programme. Flying Start continues to deliver good outcomes for the most disadvantaged children and families, giving them a good start in life.

The Safe Routes to Schools 10th year anniversary this week, has been heralded by Sustrans which is also marking the 15th anniversary of the National Cycle Network. What more can you ask of an effective publicly-funded scheme when schools such as St Illtyd's in Llantwit Major call Sustrans to say what a difference Safe Routes has made to their school?

The investment across the Vale in this scheme with Welsh Assembly Government funding has more than proved its worth.

We must hold on to the best in our public services as we face up to the Spending Review.

BARRY COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL NEWS

Staff are grilled by BBC political correspondent



ABOVE: David Cornock, the parliamentary correspondent for BBC Wales, interviewing staff at Barry Comprehensive School.

BARRY Comprehensive School staff were featured on the BBC Wales evening news recently as part of the build-up to the Comprehensive Spending Review.

David Cornock, the parliamentary correspondent for BBC Wales, travelled from Fishguard to Westminster,

stopping on the way to talk to key public services workers about how the proposed spending cuts might affect them.

David chose Barry Comprehensive as the venue to discuss the impact of the budget on schools and education, and spent time in the staffroom speaking to teachers and support staff.

Open doors at school's 'primary' open evening



The 5x60 Skate Club displayed their skills.

BARRY Comprehensive School opened its doors to pupils from all the local primary schools, together with their parents, families and friends for the annual open evening recently.

All departments made the visitors feel welcome with an exciting programme of lessons, workshops, experiments and presentations.

Many current pupils volunteered to talk to the visitors about their experiences at the school, as well as to take part in the various activities designed to showcase the many attractions of the school to potential pupils and their parents.



Demonstrating 'the lung' in biology.



Another volunteer is added to the school's 'Big Draw' wall.



Modelling traditional religious dress in RS.



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As the managing director of Owen Fuels, I sponsored all four Welsh rugby regions because I am a fanatical Welsh rugby supporter with no allegiance to any particular region other than being totally committed to the success of Welsh rugby.

In addition to sponsoring the region I was involved in sponsoring a number of Welsh junior rugby clubs such as Glynneath. Now with my new company Oil 4 Wales I am pleased to be able to get back to assisting Welsh rugby at all levels.

A great friend and customer of mine explains why he chooses my heating supplies.

"It is great to see Colin back in the oil distribution business, I have known Colin for many years and always bought my heating oil from his former company, Owen Fuels. I am now getting my heating oil from Colin's new company Oil 4 Wales because of his reliability of service even when the weather is at its worst, and for his unbeatable prices." – Max Boyce!

Bryn Hafren drama students make Prince of Denmark an offer he just can't refuse!

THE Shakespeare School Festival is celebrating its 10th anniversary and recently pupils from Bryn Hafren Comprehensive brought the house down at the Wales Millennium Centre with an abridged version of *Hamlet*.

The festival allows students nationwide to perform at a local professional theatre in a non-competitive environment and enables young people to appreciate the genius of Shakespeare.

Bryn Hafren pupils appeared at The WMC in front of an audience of 200 parents, teachers, family and friends, giving a stellar performance with their 'Mafiosi' interpretation of *Hamlet* as the evening's finale.

The production was directed by Bryn Hafren's head of drama, Alexandra N Williams. The clever use of a soundtrack along with minimal props and mafia-style costumes resulted in a spine-tingling atmosphere that enabled the performers to be at their best.

A further performance of the play is due to take place tonight (Thursday, October 21) at Bryn Hafren's year-6 open evening.

HS



PHOTOGRAPHS
by IAN DIXON.



'Barry's Old Fire Station needs some TLC,' says MP

RIGHT:
Alun Cairns MP outside Barry Fire Station.

VALE MP Alun Cairns has called on the owner of Barry's Old Fire Station to improve the condition of the historic building on Court Road, Barry.

The Grade II listed building has been named as one of the UK's top 10 'most threatened buildings' on the Victorian Society's 2010 'old fire stations at risk' list.

Local residents have expressed their concern over the dilapidated state of the building to the MP.

He said: "Slates and masonry falling from the roof in high winds and heavy snow are a major worry for local residents. Thieves have also been raiding the derelict building, with lead having been stripped from the distinctive fire fighters' practice tower."

The building has been empty for nearly a decade, and the Vale Council sold the 1901-built property to a private developer at auction in August 2006, but it has remained derelict.

Earlier this year, permission was granted to convert the ground floor

into offices and seven flats in the upper floors, sub-dividing the tower.

The Vale Council served a notice in 2008 requiring works to improve the condition of the building.

In the last month, an application for full building regulation approval for a complete refurbishment was submitted. The Vale council leader Gordon Kemp pointed out: "Any redevelopment will need to consider the need for an asbestos survey, and submissions will need to include the results of such surveys and how any asbestos will be managed."

Alun Cairns added: "I believe that we should do all that we can to make sure that such a great building should be an intrinsic part of our community again."

"I'm keen to work with the owner, the council and local groups to explore what options may be possible - perhaps it could be a community groups' venue or public museum space."

The owner could not be contacted for a comment.



Youth theatre group meeting

FOLLOWING their recent success with *Annie*, Cowbridge Amateur Operatic Society (CAOS) are considering expanding into youth theatre by forming a junior group.

They are holding an open meeting to discuss this for anybody who is interested at 7.30pm on Tuesday, October 26, at Ystradowen Village Hall, and all are welcome. For further details telephone 01446 713110.

JAM THANKS ITS KIND SPONSORS - C J CONTRACT TRAVEL SERVICES



Half marathon for the JAM Fund as great work goes on

THE Barry-based charity JAM Fund once again enjoyed a successful day at the Cardiff Half Marathon, which took place on Sunday, October 17.

The charity, The Jamie Adamson Memorial Fund was established in 2005 by Nicola and Paul Adamson in memory of their five-year-old son Jamie, who sadly passed away in 2004 after a two-year battle with leukaemia.

The charity aims to help children throughout Wales and the rest of the UK who are suffering from cancer and any other serious illness, and also supports families who have lost a child.

Charity chairman, Paul Adamson, said: "Initially, we were aiming to raise just a few thousand pounds as a thank you to the children's cancer unit in Cardiff, but the charity has surpassed our expectations and has now raised in excess of

£250,000.

"This is due entirely to the generosity of the public throughout the UK and private businesses who have also helped us."

This year, the JAM Fund had a team of 25 runners and they all did themselves and the charity proud as they completed the course wearing the easily recognisable team running vests.

The vests were sponsored this year by local business C J Contract Travel Services. Our thanks to Chris and Marie for their support.

To take part in the half marathon people have to be 17 years of age, and this year Paul's son, Sam, ran with his father for the first time in memory of his younger brother.

Youth prevailed over experience with Sam posting a time of 1hr 44min for the course.

"I managed to stay with him for the first five miles," said Paul, "but after that, the old legs couldn't keep up!"

The team had a wide

range of abilities representing it and the fastest runner was Dave Brown from Barry, who managed to complete the course in an excellent 1hr 28 mins.

Paul added: "The team doesn't consist of just runners, we also had excellent support all the way around the course and I would like to thank our supporters for the sterling work they did for us, encouraging us all to keep going when aching limbs said otherwise!"

This year, the charity has donated more than £20,000 to children, hospitals and special schools in Cardiff and the Vale.

Six children's wards at the University Hospital of Wales have received £1,000 each for medical equipment not in their budget.

Twelve children in south Wales suffering from cancer, shared £4,000 for lap tops, iPads and garden play-houses.

Eight children locally shared another £4,000 for specialist sensory equip-

ment and three special schools in Cardiff and the Vale also shared in games consoles and further specialist play therapy equipment.

The JAM Fund also donated £1,000 to each of three children who needed to travel to the USA for surgical procedures not covered by the NHS. The mum of the first child has been in touch to say the operation was a success.

The JAM Fund's main focus is the running of a luxury static caravan sited at Manorbier Country Park in Pembrokeshire. This is offered free of charge to

children from all over the UK for respite holidays.

Many children from the Vale have used the facility, which is centrally heated, double glazed and has all the mod cons necessary. The charity has also purchased a £25k wheelchair-adapted minibus which has been donated to Martin House children's hospice in Yorkshire, where family and friends also raise funds.

For full details of the work the charity does, and to see where funds have been used, please visit the website www.jamfund.co.uk.

PA

Preparations are underway for Vale 2012 Eisteddfod

THE National Eisteddfod comes to the Vale in two years time and preparations are well under way.

As The GEM was going to press this week, a meeting was being held at Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg in Barry to form the following committees: folk, dance, visual arts, drama, recitation, music, learners, literature, cerdd, science and technology, communications, finance, accommodation and technical. The National Eisteddfod attracts

150,000-160,000 visitors every year, and is held alternately in north and south Wales.

It will run from August 4-11 in 2012 in the Vale, and the organiser, Hywel Wyn Edwards said: "The response of the public has been excellent, and we're now looking forward to starting work on the 2012 National Eisteddfod in earnest."

If people have been unable to attend either of the two meetings so far, there is still time to get involved. For more details, contact the Eisteddfod office on 0845 4090 400.

MP's surgeries

VALE MP Alun Cairns, will be holding surgeries for advice and assistance on Friday, October 22, at the following locations:

1.30pm - 3pm at Buttrills Community Centre, North Walk, Barry.

4pm - 5.30pm at The Gathering Place, Flemington Road, St Athan.

Anyone in the Vale is welcome to attend, but surgeries are very busy, and it is advisable to call 01446 403814 to make an appointment.

Care homes aim to raise £5,000 for Help for Heroes

THIS autumn, The Manor House St Hilary Limited, which owns both The Manor House and Milsom House Nursing Homes, has set itself the ambitious target of trying to raise £5,000 for Help the Heroes.

It aims to do this from a variety of sponsored events including a craft fair, car boot sale and raffles. The fundraising has started and a total of £348 has already been collected.

Various members of staff have joined in with fundraising, taking part in a 10k run in Cardiff



Natalie Morris has an ambitious target.

and a sponsored slim. They were particularly impressed by the loss of two stone by one member of staff - who promised more to come.

Every year, the residents of The Manor House have a carol service followed by a lunch, and this year this event will be in aid of Help

for Heroes.

The Manor House hopes that a lot of people will donate to the charity, which supports wounded servicemen.

They can make donations at The Bay Tree, High Street Cowbridge, Milsom House, St Athan, or The Manor House at St Hilary.

'Much loved church must be protected,' say Barry councillors

RIGHT: Councillors Rob Curtis and Margaret Wilkinson say they hope the public will keep an eye on the Church of St Dyfan and St Teilo, after thieves stole lead flashing from it.

BARRY councillors, Rob Curtis and Margaret Wilkinson, have called on local residents and the police to remain vigilant after scrap metal thieves stole lead flashing from St Dyfan and St Teilo's Church - known locally as Merthyr Dyfan Church.

The church is built on reputedly the oldest Christian site in Wales. It originates from about 180AD when Pope Eleutherius sent two priests to Britain, St Dyfan and St Fagan. It was at the site that St Dyfan was buried - Merthyr is a corruption of the Latin word



Martyrium meaning burial place.

Coun Curtis told The GEM: "I know how important this building is in history. Its believed to go back to the earliest Christians in Wales.

"We must do our best to protect this valuable and precious history."

"Locally, I know this ancient church is loved by believers and non-believers alike. I call on both local residents and the police to keep a

tighter vigil on this cherished site.

"To help pay for the recent theft damage, I will be holding a 'Hot Soup and Crusty Roll Lunch' at my home on Saturday, November 13, at 12.30noon.

"Everyone is welcome, tickets are £3 and all funds raised will go to the repair work for Merthyr Dyfan Church.

Telephone 01446 736287 for further details."

Mini bins to tackle dog ends and chewing gum

AS part of the Welsh Assembly Government-supported Tidy Towns project, the Vale Council's enforcement team has been distributing free reusable pocket-sized mini bins to residents, visitors and local retailers this autumn.

The dual purpose mini bin is approximately three square

inches in size and provides a safe and clean solution for the disposal of cigarette butts, chewing gum and more.

The enforcement team has been distributing mini bins through-out town centres to high street retailers, local pubs, restaurants and other small businesses. The aim is to raise awareness of what we do with our litter - specifically in this instance with gum and cigarettes.

Vale enforcement officer Steve Abdulla, said: "It is an offence to litter. In the Vale, if you are caught, a minimum fine of £75 will be issued."

The council cannot post out mini bins. Interested retailers can contact the council. Supplies are limited and the team will distribute them on a first come, first served basis.

For more information, telephone 01446 700111.

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ANNUAL REINDEER PARADE GOES ON!

THE chairman of Cowbridge Chamber of Trade said it is "antlers ahead" for the Reindeer Parade which is little more than a month away.

At one stage, it seemed as if one of the town's great traditions was in danger of falling by the wayside because of issues involving road closure and traffic management on the day.

Local chamber chairman, Alun

John told The GEM: "Now that everything has been resolved, we have got the go-ahead."

"I want to thank Inspector Mark Taylor of Cowbridge police, all the councillors and council officers for enabling it to happen."

"There has been a lot of hard work to deal with the issues of road closure and traffic management."

The Reindeer Parade is traditionally held on the last Sunday of November, and draws people not

just from the Vale, but other parts of Wales and England too.

Alun added: "We are going to have Santa and the reindeer, on-street entertainment and a stage at the town hall as normal."

"It is a way for the local traders to thank customers for their loyalty and support."

The parade will start at the police station and go through the town to Millfield Drive, and back to the town hall.

St Aubin Nurseries MD says: 'because your child matters'

ST AUBIN
Springs my love of children to all our nurseries and with my ever-developing moving

target of improvements, the wellbeing of all the children is my driving force.

Your child will receive the very best

love, care and education in our child-centered worlds, delivered by a wonderful dedicated team who have worked together for years.

Our expertise has

been tried and tested. I have been looking after the children of Cardiff and the Vale for more than 20 years. Check out our many awards and CSSIW reports by logging onto our website www.staubinnurseries.co.uk or speak to other parents of the nurseries via our forum on the website. We can assure you that your child matters to all of us.

I am so sure you will be very happy with your child being part of the St Aubin family, I am giving you the opportunity to register your child for our new nursery in Cowbridge, or to take up the offer of a Welsh nursery place in our new Welsh unit in Penarth before the end of January, and I will give you 10 per cent of your child's first six months' fees.

This will give us time to prove to you we will offer your child the very best start in life.

Telephone me on 029 2070 8112 or e mail info@staubinnurseries.co.uk o.uk today to take up this offer.

Sue Evans,
Managing Director of
St Aubin Nurseries.

Because
your child
matters

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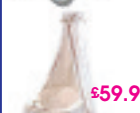
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RUCKLEYS is all prepared for Halloween with a selection of spooky hats, costumes, masks and accessories.

They are looking forward to a busy Christmas too! Join their Christmas toy saving scheme for soon-to-arrive quality wooden toys, and a wide choice of dolls prams, Moses baskets and cribs.

There will be everything your little girl would be delighted to have this Christmas.

Open a savings account by October 31 and receive 10 per cent discount. Conditions apply.

Ruckleys is open from Monday-Saturday, 9.30am-5.30pm and Sundays 11am-4pm. Call into 98 Holton Road, Barry, or telephone 01446 700006.

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arrive at your
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www.partieswithadifference.co.uk

An ideal time for getting together for family portrait

HALF-TERM is the ideal time to get the clan together for a family portrait.

Mark has developed a beautiful style and approach to capturing families at their most natural. His portrait sittings are both informal and fun, capturing energy and personality in images you'll be proud to hang in your home. There are many frame styles and can-

vas sizes to choose from, as well as having the odd loose image printed for family and friends.

As another creative alternative, Mark is also offering a canvas print and wrap service from your own images. Simply drop off your favourite image and Mark will have it printed, wrapped and ready for Christmas.

www.thecanvaswrap.com

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Half Term is a great time to have your family images taken and ready for Christmas.
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We are open for the Cowbridge Food and Wine Festival. There will be Halloween activities running for your children to join in with no charges. If you are considering using childcare, this is the perfect opportunity to take a look around!

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Catering for ages 6 weeks to 5 years. Tel: 01446 771117
www.funfoundationsdaynursery.co.uk

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We look forward
to seeing you!



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Free half-term swimming for youngsters in the Vale

THE half-term programme of activities for youngsters at the Vale's leisure centres includes the start of new free swimming sessions at weekends.

The free swimming slots, introduced thanks to a Welsh Assembly Government initiative, will let under-16s swim for free every Saturday and Sunday at the following times:

Barry Leisure Centre: 12pm-1pm;
Penarth Leisure Centre: 1pm-2pm;
Llantwit Major Leisure Centre: 1pm-3pm.

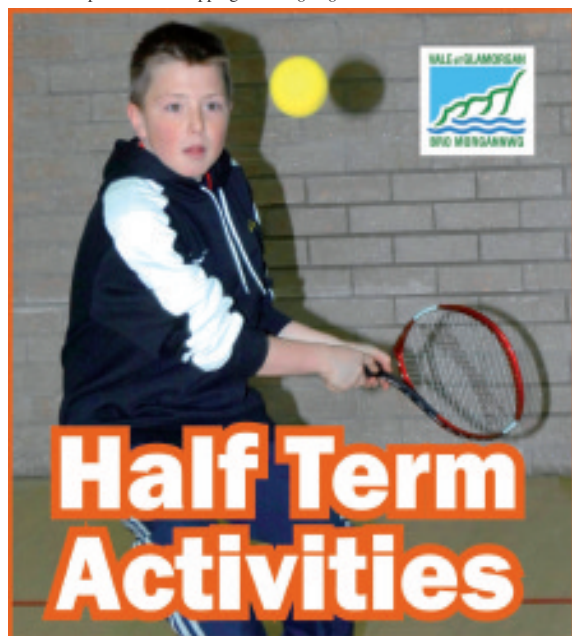
These are in addition to the free swimming sessions that also form a key part of each centre's half-term programme, where youngsters can take to the pool without dipping into

their pockets at specified times from Monday to Friday.

They can also choose from a range of other free water-based activities such as snorkelling, water-polo and a rookie lifeguards course.

Other highlights of the half-term programme of activities include free running and trampolining at Cowbridge Leisure Centre, activity days and football at Llantwit Major Leisure Centre, racquet sports and gymnastics at Penarth Leisure Centre, as well as dodgeball and a Halloween soft play party at Barry Leisure Centre. Many of the activities cost just £1.

For full details, pick up a programme from your local leisure centre or go online at www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/leisurecentres.



Half Term Activities

At the Vale of Glamorgan's Leisure Centres

Dodgeball, free running, racquet sports, football and new free swimming sessions are among the activities on offer for youngsters this Half Term at the Leisure Centres in Barry, Cowbridge, Llantwit Major and Penarth. Get involved! Call into your nearest Leisure Centre to find out more or go online at...

www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/leisurecentres

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Try us, before you think about buying anything new!

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Tel. 07772 047653

Range of Prams, new and like new items, Moses Baskets, Cots and Bumbos Toys, New and Nearly New Clothes, Monsoon, Jasper Conran, Adidas, Timberland plus many more designer names.

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New stock arriving every fortnight. Cash payments only.

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Open 10am - 5pm Monday to Saturday
(Half day Wednesday 10am-1pm)

NXT 2 NEW opened in July 2010 on Holton Road, at the top of Western Hill, Barry.

They sell an impressive selection of toys, new and nearly new clothes, and a choice of quality prams, buggies, Moses baskets and baby gifts.

All stock is in excellent condition and well worth checking out.

For some great Christmas gift ideas, call into Nxt 2 New and see the lovely stock to display. You won't be disappointed.

For further information, call into Nxt 2 New or call 07772 047653.

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01446 721339

A choice of hand-made locally produced gifts
GIFTED, situated at 4 High Street, is certainly making its mark in Barry.

At present, Gifted stock the very popular Baby Crocs crocheted in assorted colours and sizes, plus the very popular handmade Welsh sweets made by 'Brays', an old established Welsh company.

They are continuing to stock their best-selling lines, 'Littlecote' organic body products, and have new lines of jewellery, wine glasses and tumblers all made from recycled glass, by the Green Glass Co, plus a range of eco-friendly candles.

Come and browse when you're on High Street!

Spooky goings-on planned at Cosmeston during Halloween!

ON Saturday, October 30, from 6pm-9.30pm, things get spooky at Cosmeston Medieval Village!

The 14th century re-constructed village will be holding its annual Halloween event.

Visitors to Cosmeston – which has been the subject of investigations by paranormal research groups – will experience the reconstructed medieval village shrouded in darkness!

At night, the past comes even closer!

Entertainment will consist of fortune telling, Halloween games such as the ever-popular 'hunt the monk', the 'Web of Fear', spooky tales of ghosts and ghouls and,

of course, the fancy dress competition.

A spokesman said: "This year, the competition is open to children and grown ups! A challenge for everyone to wear their creepiest clothes!"

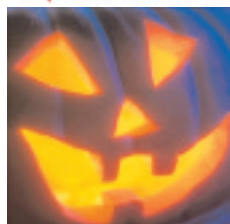
"Also for the grown ups, there is the Ivy Bush Tavern where they can fortify themselves with medieval ales and wines."

"Hog roast, hot food and drink will also be available."

Please note that this is a family event and children must be accompanied by an adult.

For more information, please call 029 2070 1678. The entrance fee is adults £5, concessions £3, family (2+3) £12.

HALLOWEEN SPECIAL



at Dyffryn Gardens
October 29th & 30th
6.00pm – 8.30pm

Are you brave enough to enter the gardens this Halloween?

Join us for guided walks, spooky stories, Halloween mask making and much more.

Advanced ticket sales only.

£6.00 (Child/Concession £4, Family 2+2 £16.00)

For more information
call **029 20593328** or visit
www.dyffryngardens.com



Here at The Three Horseshoes, Moulton, we are a very popular pub, with plenty to suit the whole family.

The playbarn has a range of new equipment and can boast a safe environment for all year round, indoor fun for children.

We serve an array of traditional home-cooked food with local Welsh produce.

Specialities include Welsh black beef and Welsh wines and beers.

There are pensioners' specials available Monday-Friday. Traditional Sunday lunch is also a great favourite, with hal-loween, Bonfire Night and Christmas party bookings now being taken.

Our beautiful country pub has so much to offer - visit us soon!

The Three Horseshoes invites GEM readers - to see how much they have on offer, for children too!

THE THREE HORSESHOES

Moulton, Near Barry
Tel. (01446) 710428



New equipment in the Playbarn, plus 'Face Painting' during school holidays.

HALLOWEEN PARTY
Saturday 30th October 5.30-7.30pm
£5.95 per child; Spooky games, drink & a cake

BONFIRE NIGHT
Friday 5th November
5.30pm onwards with live entertainment
£4 per person; £10 family ticket (2+2)

From Monday 1st November onwards:
KIDS EAT FREE
MONDAYS TO THURSDAYS

ALL HALLOWS EVE

COSMESTON MEDIEVAL VILLAGE

30th OCTOBER 6.00pm - 9.30pm

The Cosmeston Mummies Mummies
Spooky Games



TALES OF TERROR
FORTUNE TELLING

BE AFRAID!

CHILDRENS AND GROWN UPS FANCY DRESS COMPETITION
MEDIEVAL ALES, WINES AND HOT FOOD

ALL CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT
FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 02920 701678
ADULTS £5; Family [2&3] £12; Concessions/children £3.00



Children's Choices

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE



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Open Monday - Saturday 9.30 - 5.30;
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*All cats have been neutered & microchipped
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All our work is funded by Charity Shops. We sell bric-a-brac, books, clothes and all items of furniture. Donations always welcome.

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www.maesteganimalrescue.co.uk

Anybody who wants clothes collecting, please contact the above telephone numbers

Annual show will travel the world in 80 minutes!

THE Vale's Sally Parfitt School of Dance has announced that all the girls who entered the Royal Academy School of Dance Grade 1 and Grade 3 exams passed with merits and distinctions.

The girls have now started practising for the annual dance show 'Around the world in 80 minutes', which will be staged in spring 2011.

The dance school is based in Cowbridge on Mondays, and Llantwit Major on Wednesdays.

For more information, contact Sally on 01639 830017.



'Our cats are in desperate need of kind and loving new homes' - MAWS

MAESTEG Animal Welfare Society needs your help to rehome cats.

In 1985, three people in Maesteg wanted to improve animal welfare and so Maesteg Animal Welfare Society (MAWS) was born.

MAWS is a small charity run entirely by volunteers - most funds are generated from our charity shop in 4, Church Street, Maesteg. Please visit us if you are in the area (opposite the bus station).

Currently, we have an

abundance of cats who are desperately in need of a new family or individual to care for them.

We rehome many cats and dogs throughout the valleys, Bridgend and the Vale, and we are desperate for new homes.

We have had to introduce a waiting list before we can take in any more.

Please contact 01656 721496 or 01656 653456 if you can offer a home.

Any donations, bric-a-brac or any unwanted items, please call our shop 01656 738977 or 01656 721496.

Cycle shop with expert advice and service...

H R CYCLES, established in 1991 by **Hadyn Rees**, is still racing along with **Haydn** at the top of his form.

He is supported by Stuart Thom as service and spares manager (14 years with the shop), and Tom David, mechanic and general sales.

The shop specialises in giving friendly, expert service and advice, and

quality repair work of all types, including wheel building and hydraulic brake systems at reasonable rates.

Both Stuart, (who is old enough to know better), and Tom are also skilled BMX riders and can give knowledgeable advice on the best type of BMX bike to buy and how to ride it.

Visit us at Five Bells Road, Bridgend, or call 01656 766006 for more information.

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Saturday 23rd October
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30% OFF all Falcon Junior Bikes 12" to 24" wheels all fully assembled

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OUR PRICE £400.00 - SAVE £100

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Monday - Saturday
9am - 5.30pm

01656 766006
Five Bells Road, BRIDGEND
(10 mins from Junc. 35 M4)

FALCON
GIANT
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Good Schools Guide inspects St. John's-on-the-Hill Chepstow

ST JOHN'S-on-the-Hill has recently been inspected by the prestigious Good Schools Guide.

The Guide is a leading publication now in its 23rd year, written by parents, for parents. Featuring over 1,000 schools covering ages five to eighteen, the guide spans both the private and state sectors and covers each school's background and atmosphere, strengths and weaknesses, together with much factual details and educational advice.

The report commented on the outstanding progress made by the school in recent years. It recognised that St John's was the outstanding Early Years provider in the area. The Guide praised the care of the staff, the wide range of activities and the first class facilities.

They praised the seamless progression into the swish Pre-Prep. The outstanding teachers ensure educational progress in a totally supportive environment.

The prep school (7-13) was praised for 'upbeat lessons' delivered by truly committed

subject specialists. The commitment by the Governors has ensured wonderful facilities.

The highest compliments were paid to the pupils who were seen as open, happy and polite. The pupils waxed eloquently about kind teachers, numerous opportunities and great friendship.

Parents referred to St John's as a super school, a school that takes pupils as far as they want to go, a school where pupils get involved.

Mr Ian Etchells, Headmaster at St John's said, "We are not only delighted that St. John's has been accepted to join the top schools in the country but that the school also received such a fabulous report."

The school and nursery are holding an Open Morning on Saturday 13th November 2010 from 9.30am until 12 noon. Please contact Mrs Anne Etchells, Registrar on 01291 622045 e-mail: registrar@stjohnsonthehill.co.uk for further details. All welcome.



A Co-Educational Day and Boarding Preparatory School with a Pre-Prep and Day Nurseries welcoming children from 3 months - 13+ years

OPEN MORNING



Saturday 13th November 2010
9.30am - 12 noon

St. John's-on-the-Hill School
Tudor & Chepstow, Monmouthshire NP23 7LZ
Telephone: 01291 622045
Email: registrar@stjohnsonthehill.co.uk
www.stjohnsonthehill.co.uk
Registered Charity No. 212951



'This is like winning the Olympics' -

South Wales Echo headline January 17, 2007

Vale pays the price for new age of austerity as 'flagship' Defence College project bites the dust

THREE years after the champagne corks were popping on the steps of the Senedd, the Defence Technical College bit the dust this week – falling victim to the Government's austerity package.

The St Athan project, which rose from an initial budget of £12billion to the current estimate of £14billion was declared too expensive and the consortium responsible, Metrix, have been sacked.

A terse statement said that the Ministry of Defence (MoD) had decided that Metrix could not deliver the project at a reasonable cost in a reasonable timescale.

The same statement held out the prospect of some development, saying that St Athan was still the "preferred site" for Armed Forces training, and that a statement on St Athan's future in that area would be made in the spring.

It was a bitter pill for the new Vale MP Alun Cairns, who had always been a strong supporter of the DTC.

Now, his first task as MP is to defend a Government decision that is bound to be extremely unpopular in his constituency.

Mr Cairns told The GEM that he had raised the matter with the Prime Minister in the House of Commons chamber and also with Liam Fox, the Secretary of State for Defence.

He said: "Naturally, it is disappointing that

the Metrix PFI plan isn't viable but we need to recognise that the Prime Minister told me repeatedly in the House of Commons chamber that St Athan is still central to the UK's defence training needs.

"In responding to my questions, he has agreed to make his Ministers and officials available to help develop a plan for St Athan.

"Naturally, I will continue to press the case as hard as possible. The PM said that he wanted to help me support the St Athan project.

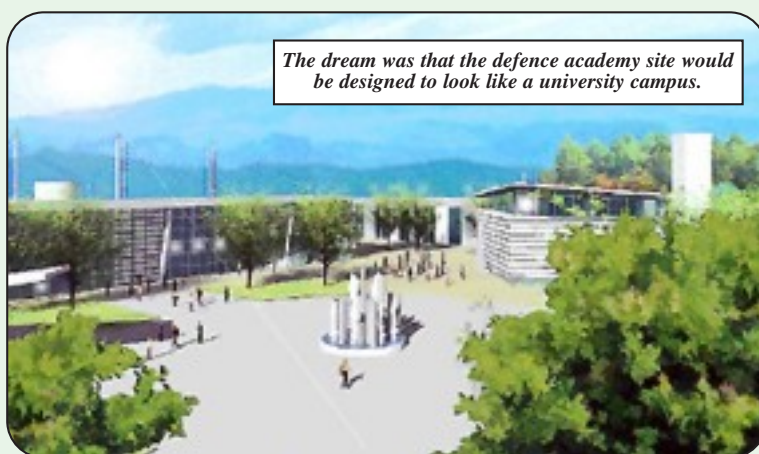
"In my meeting with Liam Fox, he confirmed that he expects a solution to be announced by March 31. In that time, I will bring Ministers to the site and continue to press the cause.

"Liam Fox assured me that he still wants a tri-service training solution at St Athan. He recognised that a lot of work had been done on site and assured me that the money wasn't wasted.

"I was told that PFI deal was not flexible enough and proved to be too expensive. We need to work on the alternative.

"I am pleased that my predecessor, John Smith agreed with me on the radio. We need to dust ourselves down and start work on the alternative. Time is short."

Wales' First Minister Carwyn Jones said: "This decision is a huge disappointment and will be an immense blow to south Wales. The project would have led to the creation of thou-



The dream was that the defence academy site would have been designed to look like a university campus.

sands of training, support and construction jobs and would have seen significant opportunities for local suppliers."

Deputy First Minister Ieuan Wyn Jones said: "We believe this is a missed opportunity at St Athan to create the training facility, as well as an aerospace business park.

"These plans would have provided a multi million pound boost to the Welsh economy, and this decision will dash hopes of bringing significant new employment to a wide area. We will now seek talks with the MOD to see what options there are for attracting new investment to St Athan."

Apart from the jobs, the Assembly estimates that the loss to the area will be £500 million in economic activity each year.

An Assembly spokesman said that to date the Welsh Assembly Government had spent £5 million in support of the redevelopment plans for St Athan, which include an aerospace business park.

That money could not be reclaimed from the MoD.

For the Metrix consortium, its chief executive, Charles Barrington, said: "Metrix, its partners and the MoD have all worked extremely hard and in close partnership to deliver a solution which offers value for money, combined with the very best technical approach to training and a rationalised estate.

"Despite the best efforts of all concerned, the combined effect of an extremely tough economic environment and numerous commercial and technical challenges meant that the project could not be delivered within the framework and timescale originally intended."

He added: "I would like to personally thank all of our supporters for their hard work, support and dedication to the DTR project."

A Metrix spokesman provided the latest estimate of the jobs that would have been provided.

- 250 roles in catering, most with some form of catering skills required.
- 200 roles in cleaning and waste disposal generally unskilled.
- 200 roles in FM and administration, mostly skilled roles (electricians, plumbers, carpenters)
- 200 roles in management and welfare support, skilled roles.
- 50 roles in transport and recreation, some roles unskilled, some skilled.
- 150 roles in training management, all skilled.
- 250 roles in training design and develop-

ment, all skilled posts

- 375 roles in training delivery, all skilled posts.
- 125 roles in administration, asset maintenance and IT, many roles skilled.

It was also estimated that 2,000 jobs would have been created for the construction of the DTC.

Vale AM Jane Hutt said: "This is a devastating blow, not just to St Athan but also to all our Services. The investment, planning and preparation to provide the £14billion first tri-service technical training college has been abandoned by this Con-Dem Government.

"The jobs, opportunities and long term skills the DTC would have provided for my constituents have been wiped out in one fell swoop today."

However, for the Conservatives, Andrew RT Davies was blaming the previous Labour Government.

He said: "I am bitterly disappointed that the Metrix proposals, and the project more generally, could not be accommodated within the Strategic Defence Review.

"It is regrettable that the previous Labour Government's inaction on this project allowed the budget to increase by several billion pounds, to £14billion.

"However, I will be working tirelessly with my colleagues from all parties to ensure that the benefits of St Athan as the home of military training are rammed home."

Plaid Cymru's Chris Franks AM said: "I am sure there will be a great deal of disappointment at the jobs that have been promised to workers in the area that are now not going to be delivered, or at least anywhere near the level originally estimated.

"I will be writing to the MoD, requesting details of exactly what proposals are going to be made for any potential projects that could still come to St Athan."

Plaid's candidate for the Vale of Glamorgan, Dr Ian Johnson, felt that the PFI aspect of the plan had contributed to its downfall.

He said: "It has been clear for a long time that the DTC in its current phase was not going to provide good value for money in an era where the UK Government were looking for defence and budget cuts.

"It was misleading for our previous Labour MP, John Smith, and our current Conservative MP, Alun Cairns, to pretend otherwise."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 21)

Local reaction

THERE was disappointment at the news of the DTC project's cancellation in the towns closest to the development.

Traders in Llantwit Major have been left hugely disappointed by the news.

John Moisan, the president of the chamber of trade, said that the development would have created thousands of jobs in the area – both construction jobs at first and later permanent jobs providing services to the camp.

He said: "There would also have been a boost in trade for the town in particular and the Vale in general.

"There would have been extra footfall from the thousands of people who would have been stationed at St Athan while undergoing training, along with their families.

"The spin-off for local businesses would have been terrific and millions would have been pumped into the local economy."

Mr Moisan said that while Barry and Cowbridge would also have benefited, it was probably Llantwit that stood to gain the most.

Mr Moisan said that former MP John Smith had given a commitment that the scheme would proceed.

"We have to ask why the previous Labour government did not sign the contracts while they could," he added.

Janet Moisan, who is secretary of the chamber, said that they would now have to concentrate on other opportunities, such as the coming of the Eisteddfod in 2012.

"We will also be pursuing the possibility of increasing tourism to the area through the Sense of Place initiative, e-trails and also the King Arthur Heritage scheme. These can all bring much needed business into the town."

Former mayor Russell Downe said that the news was a big blow to the prospects of the town, to the Vale and to Wales.

"Some people who were due to transfer here from other training bases have already bought houses," he said.

"I know the traders were hoping it would

bring money and jobs to the area. Perhaps the only good thing is that there will not now be a massive hike in property prices as most young people are already excluded from buying a house in this community because they are so expensive."

In St Athan, Four Bells landlady Cyndy Fenton said that everyone was shocked and devastated at the news.

She said: "We hoped it would go ahead on a smaller scale, but it's looking like it has been totally scrapped.

"The local economy would have had a terrific boost – there would have been hundreds of jobs for people providing services to the college and, before that, we would have had all the construction work going ahead."

She said that it was the talk of the village at the moment.

"People do not understand why it was not all agreed long ago. Why did they wait so long to make a decision?

"There will be an effect not just on the local area but throughout south Wales. It would have provided employment and brought money into the whole region.

"We are being taxed to the hilt, with a VAT increase coming up as well. I know the government says it must reduce spending but I don't think they know what they are doing."

Rhose councillor Jeff James said: "I am disappointed that the Metrix project seems not to have been approved, especially after the years of engagement with the community and after obtaining planning approval last year.

"However, I am pleased with Liam Fox's statement, as it continues to identify St Athan as the best location for a future defence training solution.

"I only hope the process of identifying a renegotiated contract or a new contractor can be concluded with some haste. Mr Fox hints that a solution may be possible to announce by next spring – that is not long to wait, if it is good news."

'A bonanza for Wales' -

Western Mail headline, January 18 2007

Defence Academy to spark property boom
The GEM, January 25 2007

The best location, the best facilities -
Western Mail, January 18 2007

We've won 5,000 jobs! - South Wales Echo,
January 16 2007

The Vale hits the jackpot - The GEM,
January 18 2007

'Campus will be the envy of forces around the world'
Rhodri Morgan, South Wales Echo,
January 18 2007

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20)

Dr Johnson added: "You cannot tell everyone in an election campaign that we must cut back massively on public spending, as Alun Cairns and the Vale Conservatives did, and then expect the UK's most expensive Private Funding Initiative to go ahead as planned.

"With this project now on hold and the Severn Barrage scrapped, the question is whether the UK Government will be investing any money at all in south Wales, while pushing through billion-pound projects such as Crossrail in London."

However, there was jubilation in the anti DTC camp. Max Wallis of Cynefin y Werin said: "It is now clear that only a few hundred unskilled jobs could be available for Vale people.

"This overblown project is opposed by many local people and has blighted the St Athan area, as we argued at the public inquiry. Advance payments from MoD and the Welsh Assembly of many millions have been a gravy train for private consultants, instead of funds going to upgrading MoD training facilities."

He added: "A fraction of the money squandered on this project would have breathed life into many more sustainable green jobs in Barry and the rest of the Vale."

However, there was despair from the construction industry. Richard Jenkins, the director of the Federation of Master Builders (FMB) Wales said: "The decision to scrap the academy at St Athan will affect many sectors, industries and communities in Wales.

"An economic impact assessment study last year from Entic, estimated that the project would generate somewhere in the region of £60m a year for the Welsh economy, as the academy would have created jobs and business in other areas, such as higher and further education institutions, construction and local service businesses."

Coun Neil Moore, the Leader of the Labour Group on the Vale Council, said: "It is an absolute travesty that the coalition has decided to axe the Metrix development at St Athan, after making promises at the election that it was safe.

"This decision will mean that, once again, all the work that has been undertaken, not to mention the time and cost of that work, has been lost for no benefit.

"It appears that the Vale has been targeted. We have recently heard the barrage has been scrapped. The coalition is to savagely cut the public sector, which is the major employer in the Vale.

"It is clear that the Magistrates Court is next, with the cuts in the Ministry of Justice."

Coun Gordon Kemp, Leader of the Vale Council: "The benefits to the Vale, south Wales and Wales as a whole, in terms of the job creating, investment and the provision of new state of the art facilities, should not be understated.

"I am clearly disappointed and concerned at this decision, especially given that the development was so far advanced. I do, however, take some comfort from the Secretary of State of Defence's comments, in confirming that St

Athan is the best location for training our armed forces.

"I am also heartened by the fact that Mr Liam Fox has clarified that he does not want to lose momentum and that work on alternative, affordable options should begin as soon as is possible.

"I urge the Government to move forward quickly on delivering a cost effective training programme at modern, fit for purpose facilities at St Athan and I am ready and available to assist in any way."

WHAT DO YOU THINK AS A LOCAL TAXPAYER?

Your views on this subject are now more important than ever. We want to hear from people in south Wales about how they feel regarding the collapse of the Defence Technical College plans at this late stage and what will happen now. The GEM will be donating £5 to the Help for Heroes charity for every view that we print.

email us at:

ggem@

internet-today.co.uk

or write to us: Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge, CF71 7EL.

THE COLOSSAL AREA THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN HOME TO THE DEFENCE TRAINING COLLEGE.



FINCHER'S SOCIAL NETWORK IS WORTH SIGNING UP FOR!

GARETH is writing a film review – a simple statement, yes, but one that with the advent of Facebook has been used, with variance, on millions of people's profiles all over the world.

With a company that is now estimated to be worth \$25 billion, and with one in 14 people across the world having a Facebook account, it has become a 21st century gothic – but what of its origins.

Well, the real-life tale of how Facebook came to be has been deemed cinematic enough to reach the big screen, directed by no less a director than David Fincher.

The Social Network tells the story of how Mark Zuckerberg (Jesse Eisenberg) went from being a computer programming genius to the man behind a revolutionary social network; but as Mark soon finds out, with success comes the desire from others to bring you down, whether it is someone who has supported you from the start (Eduardo Saverin, played by Andrew Garfield) or people who think that you have stolen their idea (the Winklevoss twins, played by Armie Hammer)...

When *The Social Network* was announced, I'm sure that it wasn't only myself who thought, "why on earth is David Fincher making a film about Facebook?"

It was a question that became less ludicrous with the news that no

less an authority than Ridley Scott has a *Monopoly* film in the pipeline, and that shooting is currently under way on a film based on the classic game, *Battleships*.

However, Fincher's film isn't exactly a look at how incredibly tricky Farmville can be, or the dangers of 'poking' the wrong person – instead Facebook itself is very much in the back seat as Fincher and writer Aaron Sorkin take a look at how from small beginnings a huge corporation grew, and the fallout that comes with it.

It is a story that is hugely gripping, the lawsuits, allegations and denials, coupled with the real-life Zuckerberg's reticence to become a public figurehead and speak out, making the tale one that is more than suitable for transfer to the big screen.

The resultant product mirrors that, the film an exceptional engrossing study of aspiration that shows just how cloudy things can become when thousands of dollars become millions, and billions, in such a short space of time.

Much of this comes from Aaron Sorkin's screenplay, a masterclass in sparky punchy dialogue that hits home, and hard, throughout the film's running time.

Sorkin created *The West Wing*, one of the finest series to have graced the small screen, and much like that show, here dialogue is order of the day.

Sorkin is easily one of the better scriptwriters working today, and his sharp words drive

the story, flashing as it does between two court cases Zuckerberg is involved in.

With the story told very much through flashback, Sorkin uses great skill and judgement to keep the main thrust of the story going at all times, conveying everything in a straightforward style that never feels that it is losing its central thread, even when leaping from one case to another, and then into the past.

If Sorkin's screenplay has a weakness, it is only that the story presented, while coming across so factually, is based on the work of Ben Mezrich, whose book, *The Accidental Billionaires*, Sorkin's screenplay is based on.

Mezrich's book, while having some basis in fact, is also a work of imagination, filling in the spaces where the facts are missing.

While this doesn't impact on Sorkin's screenplay, it does however create conflict with the characters, the actions on screen perhaps not quite the way things panned out in the real world. It doesn't make the film less reliable, as any film is subjective, but Sorkin's screenplay can occasionally take sides.

Given his previous output, *The Social Network* wouldn't be a vehicle you would associate with a director like David Fincher; however, the same could have been said about *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*, so whether this is a new, mellower Fincher, or just affording the director the opportunity to work outside of his usual spectrum remains to be seen.

What it is is another excellent effort to file alongside the likes of *Se7en* and *Fight Club*, yet is almost the most understated film of his career. While the film is marked with his distinctive visual style and colour palette, there is little in the way of the visual trickery that Fincher normally goes for, instead opting to shoot with restraint.

Aside from the visual trickery of putting Armie Hammer's head on two bodies for the twins, Fincher instead allows the script and actors to control proceedings.

The casting of such young and hungry actors also taps into the plus points of this film, as it is wonderful to see such talent given the opportunity to head up such a large film, and the resultant turns are pretty much all without fault.

As Zuckerberg, the always-excellent Jesse

Eisenberg is absolutely mesmerizing, turning Sorkin's fast-paced dialogue into a thing of incredible beauty and essaying a character whose anti-social nature is so at odds with the thing he's invented, highlighting the contradictory nature of the character.

The onscreen Zuckerberg is seemingly more interested in showing his ex-girlfriend what she is giving up, rather than having any interest in the financial side of things, and Eisenberg portrays this element of the character with aplomb.

With Andrew Garfield ready to don the Spiderman outfit in the planned reboot, he shows he'll be more than at home with the dramatic elements of that character with an outstanding performance here. The brains (and financial muscle) of the operation, Garfield brings a strong likeability to the character of Saverin, the script emphasising that of all the characters, his is the most sympathetic, someone whose aims and goals were frozen out by bad advice and wrong turns.

Garfield's turn doesn't implicitly look for sympathy, but it is inevitably drawn to him, and the actor offers up more than a simple victim.

It is the creator of music file sharing website Napster (and therefore, the man who ripped up the music industry business model) Sean Parker, who is cast somewhat as the villain here, the irony being that the actor playing him is pop star Justin Timberlake; but his presence is nothing like stunt casting, the man known as 'JT' imbuing the character of Parker with the charm of a snake oil salesman and making him the dark force that drives the wedge between

SCREEN TALK



by GARETH JAMIESON

Zuckerberg and Saverin.

Eisenberg, Garfield and Timberlake are the three main actors here, driving the film along, and each turn is magnificent, though a special mention should go to Armie Hammer for his strong turn as the Winklevoss twins (or Winklevi, as Zuckerberg memorably refers to them).

Certainly the plot doesn't veer far away from the story that is common knowledge and there is little here that really pushes the dramatic buttons; but as a document of the times we live in, *The Social Network* is exceptionally good, a film that deals with a pocket of history that has unarguably redefined the nature of social networking (whatever has happened to MySpace I hear you cry).

It is this that *The Social Network* does perhaps best – show history within the period it has happened in, and as a result, makes it a most compelling piece of work.

VERDICT – A gripping look at a modern-day phenomena, *The Social Network* is a character-led drama superbly written by Aaron Sorkin that shows the background to what is a hugely gripping real-life story.

With David Fincher offering stylish, yet understated, direction, and incredible turns from Jesse Eisenberg, Andrew Garfield and Justin Timberlake, *The Social Network* is an outstanding film. If this were Facebook, then "Gareth likes this", but as it is Screen Talk then the verdict is this. *Essential viewing.*

PENARTH AND DISTRICT RAMBLERS

Passing 'the Nook' where John Wesley once stayed in 1769!



Coastal path to Horton.

RECENTLY, five walkers and Jodie the dog joined Joy and Bracken for a trip to Gower and upon their arrival at Little Reynoldston, the thick clouds overhead gave way to blue sky.

This was a special date in history – being the 10th day of the 10th month in 2010 and also a celebration as Bracken, the border collie, was celebrating her third birthday.

Taking a rough track, they reached the Mill Wood that was once part of the Penrice Estate and this ancient wood was full of oak, ash, beech and lime trees.

However, in 1951 the woods were bought by a timber merchants who cut down many ancient trees and the gaps had to be filled by the Woodland Trust with larch, pine and spruce.

Further on, opposite the entrance to Penrice Castle, the group passed a quartered circular stone-walled fish – or stew pond, which used to hold fish, usually carp, that provided food for the Penrice Estate.

Going uphill by road, they passed the remains of a 16th century corn mill which has two large millstones at the front and the wood takes its name from the reconstructed mill pool.

A narrow sunken lane led them steeply uphill to the medieval St Andrew's Church where the churchyard overlooks Penrice Green and has fantastic views down to Oxwich Bay.

Stopping to discard outer clothing as the sun shone and the temperature rose, the group descended gently downhill as male and female pheasants scuttled hastily from the path into the undergrowth, and there were clear views across to Oxwich Burrows.

A field led them to the boggy path through a small wood and leaping over a huge pool, they crossed a stile to Long Acre and rich grassy pastureland. Two fallen trees made a handy place to stop for coffee in the hazy sunshine, before they followed a muddy path that led them to

Oxwich village, where they passed The Nook, an old cottage where preacher John Wesley stayed in 1769.

Passing the lovely old church dedicated to St Illtyd that stands in woodland overlooking the wide expanse of Oxwich Bay, they climbed 268 steps in Oxwich Wood and followed the undulating pathway around the headland to continue along the coastal path towards Horton.

Lunch was taken below the cliff path that leads uphill to Oxwich Green, before the group followed a diversion near The Sands Bay, where the coastal path is blocked.

At Horton, the group tramped steeply uphill in the afternoon sunshine, which was really warm, before crossing the main coastal road to follow a bridle path which led them past several ponds the hidden behind tall vegetation and onto a narrow green lane.

A stile led them downhill through sheep-filled fields to woodland at Bryn-sil Top where they passed through nettles and brambles to return to open forestry tracks which led back to

the mill pond.

Here, they stopped beside the tranquil lake for a short break and a drink to cool them down at one of the wooden benches, before taking the gentle climb back up through the Mill Wood to return to their cars.

On October 23, meet at 9am at Cogan Leisure Centre for a 9.5-mile hard walk at Fan Frynach and the nature reserve of Craig Cerrig Gleisiad; contact Liz on 029 2051 3698.

On October 26, meet at 9.30am at Cogan for a trip up to Gloucestershire and a seven-mile moderate walk at the Purton and Sharpness canals; contact Janet/John on 01446 418514.

Wear suitable clothing, preferably boots and carry waterproofs, food and drinks. Some degree of fitness is required and if you are in any doubt, then please contact the walk leader for advice.

For other groups' walk log onto www.ramblers.org.uk Rucksack badges, programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2021 9102.

JOY STRANGWARD

The GEM is in partnership with the Dog's Trust to find caring homes for animals in their charge at Bridgend Rehoming Centre (Telephone: 01656 725219)

Dottie needs a good friend

THIS WEEK: "Dottie is a sensitive soul who needs time to get to know you, but when she does, she is quite a strong character!"

"She is currently overweight and struggles with exercise, so will need someone who will continue her diet and with gentle exercise, she'll soon build up her fitness as she does love her walks," a spokeswoman said.

"Once she knows you she is a loving and loyal little companion. She is housetrained and fine to be left for a few hours.



Doting Dottie.

She needs an experienced owner who is able to continue her training.

"She needs an adult only home and she needs to be the only dog in the home. Please consider her as she is really missing a home environment and the company of an owner."

Art group's next event

MEMBERS of the Porthcერი group are holding an event in November as part of their campaign to create a new arts centre in Barry.

The group aims to establish a community cultural centre in the Grade II-listed Porthcერი Road Methodist church and is working hard behind the scenes to secure funding to buy the premises.

Next month (November 9) will see the second performance in the venue, when *Voices of Partition: a Musical Journey* will be presented.

The show will bring together the talents of Mazhar Tirmazi, the Sangat community chorus from the Vale, and



Marged Williams.

Sild, the award-winning Swansea-based folk group.

Porthcერი group member Marged Williams (above) is also in the chorus for the show, and still has time to do some wedding at the Porthcერი Centre!

Visit www.porthceri.co.uk for more information, including how to buy tickets for the show.

Ty Hafan needs specialist help

TY HAFAN is urgently appealing for a volunteer with electrical experience.

The charity, which has 17 shops located across Wales, regularly receives donations of electrical items which need to be tested by a qualified electrician before they can be sold.

Unfortunately, the charity is unable to test these items at present, which means that they could potentially be losing out on thousands of pounds in lost income.

Ty Hafan's retail operations manager Alan Drury, said: "We would love to hear from a qualified electrician or local company who could help us by giving up just a few hours a week to help test our electrical goods."

Mr Drury added: "The items are currently stored at our warehouse in Barry and we would love to hear from anyone who could help us."

Anyone interested in helping, or who would like further information, should telephone Alan Drury on 02920 672067 or 07917 781652.

OUT AND ABOUT with 'YOUR' GEM

What's On and Where?

Valeways walks

ON Friday, October 22, at 10.30am, sea and country aspects walk, starting at Llantwit Major bus/railway station.

On Sunday, October 24 at 2pm, seafont and parks walk starting from Penarth cliff top car park.

Green Party meeting

THE monthly Vale of Glamorgan Green Party

meeting will take place at The White Lion, Llantwit Major, on Monday, October 25 from 7pm-8pm.

All members and non-members are welcome.

Contact valegreenparty@gmail.com for further details.

Gardening club

THE next meeting of the Cowbridge Gardening Club will be at 7.30pm on Thursday, October 28 in the Lesser Hall, when

Claire Jones will give a talk on 'Floral Ideas for Christmas'.

New members will be most welcome.

Charity quiz

THE Barry committee of Cancer Research UK Cymru is organising a quiz night on Wednesday, November 3 at the Mount Sorrel Hotel, Barry, at 8pm.

The entrance fee is £2 per person, payable on the night. All welcome.

LATCH to benefit from spooky party!

A HALLOWEEN party organised by Hydrofitness, the ladies fitness centre in Barry, will raise cash for LATCH, the Welsh children's cancer and leukaemia charity.

It will take place from 3pm-5pm on Sunday, October 31, at the St Francis Millennium Hall, the Suburb, Barry. Tickets are £5 per child - adults go free, available from Hydrofitness, Cardiff Road, Barry (opposite ETB).

A spokesman said: "We're hoping lots of children will come along

in their Halloween costumes. They will be entertained with lots of games. They will have hotdogs, drinks and take home a goody bag filled with prizes.

"There will be a chance to meet the star of the show Lola (aged 5) and her parents, who have benefited from the support of LATCH over the last year while Lola undergoes treatment."

The last Hydrofitness Family Funday held at Victoria Park on July 25 was an overwhelming success, raising more than £1,000 to support LATCH.

Collectors' fair is set for the Copthorne Hotel

THE Antiques and Collectors Fair is returning to The Copthorne Hotel, Cardiff, on Sunday, October 31, from 10am-4.30pm.

There will be more than 40 dealers at the fair and many exciting new stands.

On display will be a Royal Worcester limited edition for the RNLI 70th anniversary.

sary, Poole Pottery, antique dolls, quilts, Welsh blankets, stamps, postcards, coins, jewellery, Lalique glass, Tiffany, Baccarat, Victorian Cranberry, bronzes, furniture, Doulton flambé figurines, paintings and works of art.

A spokesman said: "Many dealers are new and there will be an excellent choice of quality items."

"There will also be a warm and friendly welcome, once again, at this lovely venue. The staff are very helpful in making it a special occasion."

Antique & Collectors Fair

at the Copthorne Hotel, Culverhouse Cross, Cardiff

Sunday 31st October 2010

10.00am - 4.30pm

Vintage Dolls, China, Militaria, Victoriana, Stamps, Postcards & Coins, Art, Books, Glass and Lots more.

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Saturday 30th October

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The Barry Male Voice Choir performs 108th annual concert



BARRY Male Voice Choir recently performed its 108th annual concert to a warm and appreciative audience at St Helen's Roman Catholic Church.

The programme ranged from traditional Welsh hymns, negro spirituals and Mozart opera to modern musicals including *Les Miserables* and the pop classics by Queen, *Bohemian Rhapsody* and *We are the Champions*.

The choir responded sensitively to the dynamic baton and

inspirational leadership of musical director Dorothy Connell, and the dazzling accompaniment of the talented Emma Arscott.

Able support was provided by junior and adult artists from Pukka Productions, who pre-viewed their forthcoming show to be seen at Porthkerry Methodist Church Arts Centre.

Gareth Roberts once again provided an excellent commentary on proceedings.

The evening was also notable for the presentation of a commemorative tankard by chairman

Don Surridge to chorister Gwyn Phillips, celebrating his 40 years' service to the choir.

The busy autumn season continues with concerts in aid of the Royal British Legion and Coastal Watch in Dinas Powys and Wenvoe respectively.

Prospective new members and visitors are always most welcome at practices, which are held every Monday and Thursday at Holy Trinity Church at the bottom of Trinity Street, Barry from 7.30pm-9.30pm.

RICHARD KING

Pupils get up close to the world of science

THE year-2 pupils at All Saints Church in Wales Primary School enjoyed a trip to Technquest recently to enhance their science studies.

They are learning about light and sound, so they visited the Planetarium, where they enjoyed the story 'The Lighthouse Keeper's Birthday' and learned a lot about electricity.

The children also had the opportunity to explore the many activities and investigations in the main building, and they enjoyed a picnic lunch high above the exhibits on the third level.

The children had a fantastic day out with their teachers, Mrs Evans and Mrs Martin, and their helpers, and they thanked Technquest's story teller, Llinos, for a super visit.



ABOVE:
The giant piano was a great source of fun!

Emphatic win keeps Cadoxton Imps in the chasing pack

THE IMPS Division 2 team kept themselves ahead of the chasing pack at the top of the league following a 6-2 victory over FC Pumas.

The Imps started well and were soon 2-0 up through a header from the recently returned Clayton Ross and a cracking strike from mid-

**Cadoxton Imps
FC Pumas**

**6
2**

field playmaker Kris Gibbins.

However, the Imps took their foot off the gas, letting Pumas back into the game twice to suddenly see the game back to all square at 2-2.

Normal service was soon resumed with Richie Williams surpris-

ing everybody by getting onto the score sheet, reacting quickly from a challenge to tee up the ball.

This was followed by Dan Aadland also netting to take the Imps into a 4-2 half time lead.

In the second half, Clayton Ross put away

his second with some skilful footwork and another Richie - this time defender Richie Brett - also got on the score sheet by tapping in unmarked at the far post to see the Imps run out as worthy 6-2 winners at the final whistle.

**Division 1
Dockers 4,
Cadoxton Imps
AFC 1**

The Imps Division 1 team put up a valiant struggle against the Dockers, but with a couple of key players missing they were unable to claw back the deficit once Dockers got ahead.

Having gone 2-0 down, the Imps did pull a goal back when Mike Cuttejar rolled back the years with some great ball skills and a neat finish, but the Imps couldn't capitalise on this and conceded a third goal before half time.

In the second half, Dockers again seemed to score too easily to stretch their lead to 4-1. However, with a change of formation early on in the second half and with enough time to make a difference, the Imps galvanised themselves.

Creating several good chances, unfortunately the Imps were unable to find the back of the net with any of them.

A couple of costly errors at the back by the Imps, and not taking advantage of the numerous chances created, was the difference between the two teams in what was otherwise a fairly evenly contested game.

**Barry Cup
(Second Round)**

This coming Saturday (October 23) is the second round of the Barry Cup in which the Imps will again play a mixed team blended from the Division 1 and the Division 2 teams.

The Imps will be hoping to produce another giant-killing act against Premier team Cardiff Airport at Rhoose. **MP**



THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL (EAGLESWELL ROAD (PART) LLANTWIT MAJOR) (ROAD CLOSURE) (TEMPORARY) ORDER 2010

1. On 21st October 2010 the Vale of Glamorgan Council in exercise of its powers under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended), made an Order the general effect of which is as described in the schedules below:

2. The Order will be known as "The Vale of Glamorgan Council (Eagleswell Road (Part) Llantwit Major) (Road Closure) (Temporary) Order" 2010.

SCHEDULE 2

Location Eagleswell Road, Llantwit Major between the Junctions of Monmouth Way (Grid Ref 297977/168804) and Leigh Close (Grid Ref 298096-168677).

Reason To allow removal and replacement of a railway bridge on behalf of Network Rail.

Duration From 8.00 on Friday 22nd October 2010 until 17.00 hrs on Sunday 3rd December 2010.

Alt. Route The signed diversion route for North bound traffic will be at Leigh Close (Grid Ref 298096-168677) proceed south bound to the junction of Boverton Road, Turn Left, Proceed along Boverton Road for approximately 400 metres to the junction of the B4265 Llantwit Major Bypass. Turn left at the traffic lights and proceed westbound along Llantwit Major Bypass. At Llanmaes Traffic Lights turn Left into Llanmaes Road and immediately left into Eagleswell Road. Proceed Southbound for approximately 600 metres to end of diversion. Vice versa for South bound traffic

Signing: Appropriate temporary signing will indicate the alternative route.

NB: Full access will be maintained to all properties along the extent of the Road closure area

Please note no access will be maintained for Pedestrians directly under the railway bridge

Signed Pedestrian Route

For South bound Pedestrians .At railway bridge (Grid Ref 298024/168759) turn left into lane at side of 38 Eagleswell Road, proceed to lane end, turn right into Cardigan Crescent proceed approximately 70 metres, turn right into the lane side of 32 Cardigan Crescent leading to Heol Merioneth .At lane end Turn right along lane at the side of 14 Heol Merioneth leading into Glanymor and Harding Close, Turn left into Percy Smith Road and proceed to junction of Boverton Road and end of diversion. Vice versa for North bound Pedestrians.

Dated this 21st day of October 2010.

**M. Punter, Head of Visible Services
Vale of Glamorgan Council, The Alps, Wenvoe. CF5 6AA.**



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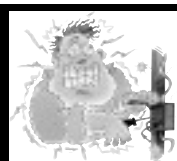
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Advance Notice to Members of Bridgend Lifesavers' Credit Union Limited

AGM to be held on
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Pencoed Welfare Hall, Heol Y Groes, Pencoed.
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Martin Hughes, Secretary, on behalf of Board of Directors (www.blsccu.co.uk)
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Public Notice

The Llantwit Major Branch of the Welsh Conservative Party will be holding a **SURGERY** in the Heritage Centre, Llantwit Major Town Hall from 11am to 12 noon **Saturday 23 October, 2010.**
If you have any local issues, please come along.

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Articles For Sale

ADVERTISE HERE for up to 4 weeks for 50p a word plus VAT. To take advantage of this offer simply either send in your description along with a cheque for the appropriate amount made payable to "The Glamorgan Gem" at The Gem, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or telephone us with your wording by 12 noon Tuesday. All major credit cards accepted. Tel 01446 774484. Adverts must contain a residential land line telephone number. You may alter your advert as items are sold. Sorry no refunds are given.

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PINE KITCHEN TABLE and 4 chairs with cushions, very good condition - £50. 01446 742560. (43)

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FRIGIDAIRE Fridge - £80, Banjo 5 string £150, Electric Guitar Jackson

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LIFT member given chance to 'lift off'!



VOLUNTARY organisation LIFT (Life Is For Today) is a self help group for those affected by breast cancer.

We meet regularly to offer support and friendship for people living in the Vale.

Friends and some members of the LIFT group recently attended a charity function in support of cystic fibrosis research. At this event Venetia Sanders won first prize in the charity raffle; quite literally 'Lift off' in a light aircraft for a trip across the Gower and the Vale.

She said: "It was an amazing first prize and

many thanks to the pilot Andy Roberts." Venetia is pictured just before take-off.

The next LIFT group meeting won't be quite so exciting but it will include relaxation therapies, in Cowbridge on Wednesday, November 3 between 10am and 1pm.

Following that, there will be a talk on Wednesday, November 17 between 2pm and 4pm entitled 'Looking good with Sue'.

New members are always welcome to attend. Please contact Hilary on 01446 749756 or Anne on 01446 772843 for further information.

JB

Council asks residents to try its website

WEBSITES are a convenient way for residents to contact their local council, and can save councils thousands of pounds.

Now, the Vale Council is asking local people to try its website next time they want to request a service.

The Leader of the Vale Council, Coun Gordon Kemp, explained: "Residents can access council services and information 24 hours a day, seven days a week through our website. They can even access the website from a smart phone as a version of the site has been designed especially for mobile phones."

"Local people can use the site to report problems such as fly tipping, potholes and graffiti, and they only have to tap in their postcode to find the most relevant information for their address, including the latest planning applications for their area."

The operational manager for customer relations, Tony Curless, said: "The website is the most cost effective and efficient way to contact the council. Over the coming weeks, we will be advertising the website to encourage local people to get on line to request services, report problems and find information."

"I think most people will be surprised by the range of information and services that are now available on our website. We are committed to providing the highest standards of service regardless of how our customers contact us."

"However, using your computer is cheaper than a phone call or making a visit to a council office. And it helps save the council money, and that's ultimately a saving for the tax payer too."

Independent research has found that it costs councils more than £8 to deal with a visitor to council offices, more than £3 to deal with a phone call but only 39p to service a request made through a council website.

The council website address is: www.vale-of-glamorgan.gov.uk.

FUN RUN

DIABETES UK
Cymru, Marie Curie Cancer Care and St John Cymru Wales are asking people to support their first fancy dress festive fun run, sponsored by Vale Healthcare Ltd, along Penarth seafront on Sunday, December 12 to raise vital funds.

Starting at 2pm next to the clifftop playground, people can either run or walk the 3km (two-mile) course for any of the three charities in Christmas fancy dress.

For further information, or to download an information form, visit www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/penarthfunrun or call 029 2042 6068.

GEM Family Notices

Birthdays

**Catherine
Blockley**

Happy Birthday

60!

25th October 2010

Lots of love from Mum, your children,
their partners and grandchildren.
SIMPLY THE BEST. XXX



Family Notices

WRIGHT Wendy Catherine Late of Penllyn

Husband David and daughters Susan and Jane wish to express their sincere gratitude to relations and friends for their sympathy and support extended to them in their recent bereavement. Grateful thanks also to Rev Norman Williams for officiating at the funeral and Andrew Thomas, who carried out the funeral arrangements.

THOMAS

Suddenly on October 9 at home,
Malcolm John, aged 65 years,
of Tynewydd Road, Barry.

Dearly loved husband of Erica.

Malcolm will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Resting at AG Adams & Son funeral home, Gladstone Road, Barry, until the funeral on Monday October 25. Service in the chapel at 2.00pm, afterwards interment at the Natural Burial ground at Culverhouse Cross at 3.30pm.

Family flowers only. If desired, donations may be handed to the funeral director after the funeral for Religious Society of Friends.

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'TECH-SAVVY' BARRY ISLAND PRIMARY PUPILS WIN PRESTIGIOUS UK AWARD

TECH-SAVVY youngsters from Barry Island have beaten off competition from more than 150 schools across the country to make the final of Becta's national ICT Excellence Awards.

The ICT Excellence Awards, which recognise and reward those schools that have shown how technology can be imaginatively used to enhance lessons and support all school activities, have

been run by Becta, the agency formed to encourage the use of technology in learning. In the face of stiff competition, Barry Island managed to impress the judges by showcasing their ideas and methods of incorporating technology into the heart of school life.

They were named best school for the whole of Wales and joint winner in the UK prize. Headteacher Janet Hayward and deputy Ty Golding were presented with their award by

Stephen Crowne, chief executive of Becta. Niel McLean, Becta's executive director for schools and families, explained: "This year we've been so impressed to see such inspiring and enthusiastic use of ICT. Barry Island Primary has really invested their time and effort into putting technology at the core of their every-day activities.

"This is certainly the way forward and I'm sure everyone connected with the school - teachers, learners,

parents and governors - will all benefit from the rewards that technology can bring, whether that's through better monitoring of pupils' progress, building links with the home or making les-

sons more exciting." Janet Hayward added: "We're thrilled to have won. It's a fitting reflection of the dedication shown by our teachers and the enthusiastic approach of the pupils. We are

absolutely committed to using technology in exciting and innovative ways to ensure our pupils progress and achieve their full potential, and, most importantly, enjoy their learning."

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT, 1990

CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG DEDDF CYNLLUNIO (ADEILADAU RHESTREDIG AC ARDALOEDD CADWRAETH) 1990

NOTICE is hereby given that application has been made to the Council for planning permission for the undermentioned developments:

HYSBYSIR trwy hyn i geisiadau gael eu gwneud i'r Cyngor am ganiatâd cynllunio ar gyfer y datblygiadau canlynol:

Development in Conservation Areas Datblygiad mewn Ardaloedd Cadwraeth

Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2010/00910/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig:	Replacement dwelling and landscape works
Location/Lleoliad:	Heathcliff, Clive Crescent, Penarth
Conservation Area/ Ardal Gadwraeth	Penarth
Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2010/01059/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig:	Proposed two storey extension to rear of existing property
Location/Lleoliad:	42A, Clive Place, Penarth
Conservation Area/ Ardal Gadwraeth	Penarth
Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2010/01061/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig:	Side extension providing a sitting area on the ground floor and an extended bedroom at first floor level
Location/Lleoliad:	Ty Llwyd, Bridgeman Road, Penarth
Conservation Area/ Ardal Gadwraeth	Penarth
Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2010/01068/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig:	Proposed modifications to the existing vehicular access - works include the taking down of the existing stone boundary wall and rebuilding to new location
Location/Lleoliad:	New House, St. Hilary
Conservation Area/ Ardal Gadwraeth	St. Hilary
Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2010/01069/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig:	Construction of replacement boundary wall incorporating lighting
Location/Lleoliad:	The Croft, Llanmaes
Conservation Area/ Ardal Gadwraeth	Llanmaes

Listed Building Consent Caniatâd Adeilad Rhedredig

Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2010/01065/LBC
Proposal/Cynnig:	Removal of pews
Location/Lleoliad:	Porthkerry Road Methodist Church, Porthkerry Road, Barry
Listed Building/ Adeilad Rhedredig	Grade II
Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2010/01080/LBC
Proposal/Cynnig:	Remove external timber landing and staircase from rear first floor elevation. Insert painted metal Juliet balcony to first floor French doors.
Location/Lleoliad:	66, High Street, Cowbridge
Listed Building/ Adeilad Rhedredig	Grade II

Development that might affect the setting of a Listed Building Datblygiad a allai effeithio ar amgylchedd Adeilad Rhedredig

Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2010/01081/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig:	Remove external timber landing and staircase from rear first floor elevation. Insert painted metal Juliet balcony to first floor French doors.
Location/Lleoliad:	66, High Street, Cowbridge
Listed Building/ Adeilad Rhedredig	Affecting 66, High Street, Cowbridge, Grade II

Full details (including plans) may be inspected during normal working hours for a period of 21 days in the offices of the Head of Planning and Transportation at the address given below, or via the Council's Online Applications Register at vog.planning-register.co.uk. Mae'r holl fanylion (gan gynnwys y cynlluniau) i'w gweld yn swyddfydd Pennaeth Cynllunio a Chludiant y cyngor (gwelwch y cyfeiriad ar waelod y dudalen) yn ystod oriau arferol swyddfydd, am gyfnod o 21 o ddiwrnodau. Cewch eu gweld hefyd ar Gofrestr Ceisiadau Ar-lein y cyngor drwy fynd i vog.planning-register.co.uk.

Dated: 21 October, 2010
Rob Thomas
Head of Planning and Transportation
The Vale of Glamorgan Council,
Dock Office,
Barry Docks,
Barry
CF63 4RT

Dyddiedig: 21 Hydref, 2010
Rob Thomas
Pennaeth Cynllunio a Chludiant
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg,
Swyddfa'r Doc,
Dociau'r Barri,
Y Barri
CF63 4RT

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBER TO THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

In accordance with The Standards Committees (Wales) Regulations 2001, the Council is seeking applications from individuals interested in becoming independent members of the Council's Standards Committee. Three appointments will be made.

Applicants will be required to demonstrate independence and impartiality in assisting the Standards Committee in promoting, maintaining and improving ethical arrangements within the Council and Town and Community Councils.

- Are you a good listener?
- Are you inquisitive?
- Can you weigh up often conflicting evidence and reach an effective conclusion?
- Can you work as a team?
- Do you have respect for others and an understanding of diverse ethical issues?
- Do you have integrity and good character?

If so, you may be just the person we are looking for to become an independent member of the Committee which comprises 5 independent members, 3 Vale of Glamorgan Councillors and a Community Council representative. The Standards Committee is crucial in maintaining high ethical standards at County Borough and Community Council levels. Briefly its aims are to advise, assist and guide Members in the adoption, monitoring, operation, enforcement and review of various local codes of conduct and other ethical guidance.

You CANNOT in law be an independent member if you are:

- a serving Member of Officer (or the spouse or civil partner of a Member or Officer) of the Vale of Glamorgan Council, any other County or County Borough Council, a Fire Authority, a National Park Authority or a Town/Community Council
- a former Member or Officer of the Vale of Glamorgan Council
- a former Member or Officer of any other County or County Borough Council, Fire Authority or National Park Authority until at least one year after ceasing to be a Councillor/Officer of that authority.

Independent members are appointed for a period of between 4 and 6 years and may be appointed for one further consecutive term. The Standards Committee is likely to meet at least four times per year although independent members will need to have flexibility as to availability since the Committee sometimes has to meet at short notice.

A detailed knowledge of local government is not necessary although it would be an advantage if potential candidates were interested in matters relating to public life and services.

The ability to speak Welsh may be considered by the Appointment Panel to be an advantage and the Panel may take into account the need to achieve a balance of skills, qualities and expertise on the Committee, as well as the need to represent the community as a whole and achieve a geographical spread.

Candidates should not otherwise be disqualified (e.g. under Section 80 of the Local Government Act 1972).

The posts are remunerated at a rate of £1,200 per annum and the Council will reimburse legitimate approved expenses.

The Council is an equal opportunities employer and provider of services and welcomes applications from women, young people, disabled people and people from ethnic minorities.

Any person interested in becoming an independent member should forward a letter of application "In Confidence" to the undersigned explaining their suitability for the post together with two references by no later than 12th November, 2010. All applications will be judged on merit.

It is intended that interviews will take place in November 2010. Successful candidates will be expected to take up their appointments from mid December 2010 and serve, subject to termination or resignation, until 2014.

Peter H. Evans
Monitoring Officer
Vale of Glamorgan Council
Civic Offices
Holton Road
BARRY
CF63 4RU



CHARITIES BENEFIT AS THE CARDIFF HALF MARATHON DRAWS A CAST OF THOUSANDS

CARDIFF'S half marathon took place on Sunday, October 17 with many participants from the Vale and Bridgend.

Among those who took on the 'shorter' marathon for charity were a team from the Atlantic Hotel in Porthcawl and a team from Barry, representing the Jam Fund charity.

More than 15,000 people took part, starting at Cardiff Bay.

As you can see from Glyn Evans' pictorial record of a memorable, and thankfully, sunny day, there were the speedsters, and those that just wanted to get round and raise funds for a good cause.



Vale MP to oppose tobacco display ban

LOCAL shopkeepers have asked Vale MP Alun Cairns to oppose plans that could cost them more than £1,000 to change their shelving and display cabinets if the former government's proposals go ahead.

More than fifty local businesses have contacted Mr Cairns to ask for his assistance regarding the last Government's tobacco display ban and the effects it could have on their businesses.

They argue that there is no evidence to support a proposed display ban on tobacco and that the government proposals will cause harm.

Small retailers are especially concerned about the display ban, particularly in relation to the cost of changing existing display facilities, and also regarding the security of their store while serving customers purchasing tobacco.

Alun Cairns, said: "I have been advised that discussions are taking place to decide how best to tackle this issue in the context of the new Government's focus on public health, and its priorities, given the challenges facing business competition and costs.

"Naturally I shall continue to work with the local traders to ensure that everything possible is done to safeguard their businesses from additional expenditure, due to the stipulations of the display ban introduced by the last Government."



CALLING ALL CLUB OFFICIALS!

Send us your sports reports, news, views and other items of interest. Email ggem@internet-today.co.uk

Who wants to build what and where in the Vale of Glamorgan?

Mr G Eley - 49 Drive, Llandough - Side and rear extensions and garage conversion.
Mr Derek and Mrs Wendy Marles - Ty Llwyd, Bridgeman Road, Penarth - Side extension providing a sitting area on the ground floor and an extended bedroom at first floor level.
Mr William Hopkins - 4 Lidmore Road, Barry - Single storey rear extension (amendments to 2010/00814/FUL).

Mr David Jones - 5 West Walk, Barry - Single storey side extension for storage.
Mr and Mrs I and K Evans - Ysgubor Goch, Llandough, Nr Cowbridge - Proposed glazed garden room extension to the rear of the dwelling. Proposed sliding glass door to cover existing front door to dwelling for weather protection.
Mr Martin Scannell - Land to east of 1 Sheepcote Cottages, Bonvilston - Continued

Under-15s rugby derby correction

LAST week's GEM featured photographs (by Mandy Thomas) of an under-15 Ospreys' Cup game between Pencoed and Bridgend Athletic.

It reported that Pencoed could only field 14 players, but that they had fought with great spirit against 15 Athletic players.

This was an incorrect assumption by the reporter, and we would like to make it clear that the game was played on a 14-a-side basis.

PHILIP IRWIN

Success for Wales WTF Tae Kwon Do at Welsh championships in Monmouth



The students show their medals.

ON SUNDAY October 10, 19 students from Wales WTF Tae Kwon Do, comprising of Llantwit Major and Llantrisant clubs, competed in the Welsh Championships in Monmouth leisure centre and all achieved great success.

Among the pewee category (aged 5-8-years-old), four students competed in their first national competition and all four students reached medal positions.

William Fyfe put up a great fight, winning his

first round and just missed out on gold in his second round by a point, achieving a silver medal.

Oliver Jarman fought tirelessly for three two-round fights against some challenging opponents to win all three outstandingly well and claim gold.

Bethan Gammon fought in two different weight categories, winning her first and taking gold, and just missing out in the second round of the higher weight category against a higher grade opponent to take silver.

Lastly our youngest competitor, Dylan Morgan, who has only been training with us for a matter of weeks, stormed through his first fight to take gold and then also competed in a higher weight category, again against a higher grade opponent, and took silver.

All pewees performed incredibly well and are already back in training for their next competition.

Our second group of students competed in the junior category and of the 11 students competing, 7 achieved gold medals and four took silver medals.

For the girls, Megan Atkinson competed against two opponents, displaying great sportsmanship against her first, who was reluctant to fight, and then working really hard against her second, who was a black belt, to take gold.

Hannah Davies had a bit of a height advantage over her opponent so demonstrated great control in her fight by holding back on her power shots and still managing to take gold.

Ruth May and Ellie May each fought against an older black belt opponent and worked hard for both rounds to take silver medals.

For the boys, Adam Mackeprang had to compete against his team mate, Jack Richards.

Both boys worked incredibly hard and recovered well from injuries during the bout to complete a very close match, with Adam taking gold and Jack taking silver.

Ben Simpson-McCourt competed against a higher grade and, despite receiving an illegal punch to the throat, pushed hard to win his fight and take the gold medal.

Ben Boyd also had a challenging fight but used his skill to keep his opponent at legs distance to score some great shots and win the fight.

Charlie Cook displayed great effort against his opponent and just missed out on the gold to take silver.

Finally, our older students competing in the junior category both put on great performances.

Cameron Davies won what can only be described as a longstanding grudge match against an opponent he had fought several times previously in a different style of Tae Kwon Do.

Both boys fought aggressively, demonstrating their desire to be victorious but in the end Cameron used his skill to lay the debate to rest and take the gold medal.

Ryan Mackeprang also demonstrated great skill in his match, employing a range of

attacking and defensive styles and scoring some impressive headshots to also take the gold medal.

Finally, our four seniors all put on a great show towards the end of the competition.

Robert Cleave, the newest edition to the club and still just a white belt, fought hard against a higher grade opponent in his first competition to take a silver medal.

Similarly, Shaun Jenkins and John Knight, who have also only been training with us for a few months, demonstrated an impressive use of their skills against more experienced, higher grade opponents to each take silver medals.

The last fight of the day was definitely one worth waiting for and involved an exciting display of headshots and power shots exchanged between Kevin Hiscock and his opponent.

The boys were very

well matched but in the end Kevin took control of the ring to win gold.

All competitors worked exceptionally hard in class, which showed on the mat as they all demonstrated great levels of fitness, control and skill.

Students are all back in training now and have their sights set on the next national competition, to be held by the British Tae Kwon Do Control Board, taking place next month, in which they will, no doubt, repeat their hugely successful performances.

For more information regarding Wales Tae Kwon Do and Llantwit Major Tae Kwon Do Club please contact the chief instructor, Master Paul Jones (V Dan) on 01446 790082 or 07966 171 840.

PAUL JONES

MEDAL JOY FOR NEW KARATE KIDS!

Under-8s girls medallists: Lara, Maisie and Georgia.



Youngsters get a taste of karate competition



Under-6 girls finalists: Ella and Paige.



Under-6 boys finalists: Finnian and Tomos.

WITH around 200 entries, the YMCA Hub was packed to the rafters on Saturday as Vale Karate hosted its latest 'childrens development' competition.

Children from four to 14 had a chance to compete in either aspect of competitive karate; kata and kumite.

Arrival times were

staggered so that no-one was waiting too long.

As this was a 'development' event, Vale Karate's squad were not entered. Instead, they helped the large number of experienced instructors run the event.

Chief instructor Rob Copeland declared himself extremely happy with the outcome.

He said: "This was an ideal opportunity for our youngsters to dip their

toes in the water of competitive karate, and the opportunity was grasped by an impressive number!

"The event went off without a hitch, due to the outstanding work done by my team of instructors."

For information on Vale Karate's classes visit www.valekarate.com or email robert@valekarate.com

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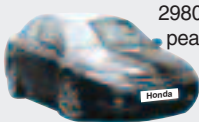
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The Ryder Cup players.

Civilians win again in St Athan's 'Ryder Cup'

RYDER Cup fever swept RAF St Athan Golf Club members recently when they held one of their most prestigious events of the year – The Elwyn Parry Ryder Cup.

Started in 1993, this is now an annual event with 32 golfers representing the Combined Services and the Civilians.

The format for the day was match play, with eight foursome games in the morning and 16 singles in the afternoon. The weather was a lot kinder to the St Athan golfers than it was to the players at the Celtic Manor and the competitors managed to play throughout the day in glorious sunshine.

Pete Morgan was elated when his playing partner Will Morgan managed a hole-in-one, but it was not enough to win their match against Steve Bacon and Daz Smith.

At the midway stage, the scoreboard showed four games to each team, which meant that the afternoon session would prove to be a battle for all.

The Combined Services, captained by BJ Hawkins, played some outstanding golf but the end result of 13.5 - 10.5 denied them victory.

Ade Hawkins and his Civilian team were jubilant to retain the cup for the third consecutive year and at the evening's



ABOVE: Steve Bacon, Pete Morgan, Daz Smith and Will Morgan.

presentation, on behalf of his players, he duly accepted the challenge to play again next year.

RAF St Athan Golf Club welcomes new players and visitors; a function room is available for private hire and catering is available. For information, contact the club manager on 01446 751043.

CAROL MORGAN



Mr Ryder Cup, Elwyn Parry.

THE LATEST NEWS FROM SEA VIEW LADS ANGLING CLUB

MEMBERS have been enjoying some excellent results of late with several taking the top places in south Wales open events.

Rays have moved in and the lads are making their mark with some excellent bags of double figure fish being land-

ed. That rare special, the Codling, has also been making its presence known. Who knows, maybe we'll even get a run of Whiting in the coming month!

Bathers, sunscreen and sombreros are being packed by many members for the annual invasion of the Canaries and we look forward to hearing of their exploits.

Would your business be boosted by being seen in more than 43,000 newspapers, from Penarth to Porthcawl AND online? Email The GEM at gemsales@internet-today.co.uk

Blatchford's blistering drive breaks deadlock as Barry earn three points

CARDIFF Corinthians were the visitors to Jenner Park in a rearranged game that had originally been postponed a few weeks ago due to both sides' cup commitments.

A hard game was expected with Corinthians having experienced players such as Russell Wigley, Scott

Hillman, Chris Ashley, Danny Hooper and former 'Dragons' player Leon Jeanne amongst their ranks.

The first half was dominated by the Corinthians with their short, quick passing game causing the Dragons defence to play at their best.

The first chance of the game fell to the Corinthians but the shot was blocked and the fol-

BARRY TOWN CARDIFF CORINTHIANS 1 0

low up hit wide.

The Dragons were finding it difficult to get their passing game going and were too often caught in possession.

It took 10 minutes before the Dragons managed a shot, but Ryan Jenkins snatched at the ball and it did not trouble the Corinthians' keeper.

The game then seemed to flow from one box to the other with no real chances being made by either side, until on 22 minutes, a rare error by the Dragons' defence allowed a chance for

Corinthians.

Dragons keeper Dan Bradley was up to the task and saved well in a one on one situation.

The next chance also fell to the Corinthians when Barry Gunstone stepped inside a defender and unleashed a shot which cannoned off the crossbar and was cleared.

The Dragons were still struggling to hold onto the ball which put unnecessary pressure on the defence.

There was little fluidity to the Dragons' play and it was no surprise that Corinthians created another chance, but a header was just wide of the upright.

A couple more shots from Corinthians saw Dan Bradley save one while the other was wide of the upright. The first half finished with Corinthians on top and feeling unlucky that they were not leading.

If the first half belonged to Corinthians then the second was definitely The Dragons.

They started the second half as if they meant business showing more aggression and starting to pass the ball around, dragging the Corinthians defence all over the place.

Rob Blatchford started to use his pace and managed the first Dragons' shot for some while but the keeper managed to force it out for a corner.

The Dragons thought they had taken the lead 13 minutes into the half, when a cross was headed into the path of Zaki Misbah but his effort was ruled out for offside.

Minutes later Misbah had another chance but the Corinthians' keeper brilliantly turned the ball

over the crossbar.

With the Dragons pressing all the time there was the odd occasion when Corinthians broke out and they almost scored, but again Bradley came out on top with another great save.

The Dragons were playing fast flowing football but were once again nearly caught out on the break but Bradley saved well from Hooper.

The next chance fell to Rob Blatchford but his great effort went narrowly wide.

The Dragons appealed for a penalty but both the referee and assistant did not see a Corinthians' defender hook a goal bound shot off the line.

Manager Gavin Chesterfield replaced Layton Maxwell and Ryan Jenkins with Ian Jones and James Saddler to try and win the game, but to be honest the game had 0-0 written all over it, with both keepers having a good game.

However, on 77 minutes Rob Blatchford came inside his marker and hit a blistering shot from fully 30 yards which the keeper could not hold and went into the corner of the net to give The Dragons the lead.

Leigh Pratt then came on to replace Sam Hartrey and within minutes got himself booked for a challenge – welcome back Leigh.

Corinthians tried to push forward in search of an equaliser and a goal-mouth scramble saw a deflected shot well saved by Bradley. The referee then brought proceedings to an end.

This was a great game for spectators and a great advert for the standard of football played in Division One of the Welsh League and both teams should be congratulated for producing such an entertaining game.

Dragons: Dan Bradley; Geraint Frowen, Damon Searle, Dan Clare, Kirk Huggins (Capt.); Atif Bashir, Layton Maxwell (sub. James Saddler), Sam Hartrey (sub. Leigh Pratt), Rob Blatchford; Zaki Misbah, Ryan Jenkins (sub. Ian Jones); Subs not used, James Simpson, Lewis Cosslett.

'Alfie' optimistic about Cup chances

CRUSADERS and Wales dual-code star Gareth Thomas is hoping that Wales can defy the odds on Saturday and beat France in the deciding game of the Alitalia European Cup in Albi and qualify for the 2011 Four Nations.

"We're in this competition to win and finish top of the pile," he said. "The France game is so important to us and it'll be massive for Wales if we win. To qualify for the Four Nations is a massive carrot."

"The chance of playing against England, New Zealand and Australia is mouth-watering as a player and it'd do wonders for rugby league in Wales. Going there will make for a fiery encounter."



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Phil Johnson has been an AutoSmart franchisee for over 3 years.

"I worked as a manager with a large Fleet Rental company," says Phil. "I had a good salary but felt that there must be more to life. My wife ran her own business and I always envied her independence. As time went on I realised that I too wanted the freedom of being my own boss."

"When a local AutoSmart franchise came up for sale I was convinced that this was the new challenge that I was looking for. I had always worked in the motor industry, so I knew that AutoSmart had been around for a long time and that their valeting and cleaning products are very well respected by the trade."

"I've been a franchisee for nearly 4 years now and am really glad that I made the move. I've grown the business substantially and it gives me an excellent living."

"Our products are consumables and customers use them day in, day out, every day. I visit my customers regularly to top up their supplies and to see how else I can help them. Over time I have built a strong relationship with many of them. I find it really satisfying to know that people appreciate the service that I offer and like the products that I provide."

"I love the fact that my business takes me out and about, rather than sitting in an office. No two days are the same - you'd be amazed at the different types of company that use our products. I sell to everything from prestige car dealers, valeters, hauliers and motor bike dealers, through to engineers and funeral parlours. I even supply a bespoke furniture company."

"Potential franchisees always ask if I would recommend an AutoSmart Franchise. My answer is; if you have the drive and are prepared to work hard then the rewards are there for the taking."

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Deposit Allowance	£500.00
Amount of Credit	£9195.00
Total Charge For Credit	£1551.36
Total Amount Payable By Customer	£11246.36
GMFV (Optional Final Payment)	£3851.00
Mileage per Annum	9000
Excess Mileage Charge	6p per mile

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GMFV (Optional Final Payment)	£4241.00
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Excess Mileage Charge	6p per mile

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FORD New Zetec 1.2 5 16V Duratec (82PS)

On The Road Price	£10495.00
Deposit Allowance	£500.00
Amount of Credit	£9995.00
Total Charge For Credit	£1708.52
Total Amount Payable By Customer	£12203.52
GMFV (Optional Final Payment)	£4392.00
Mileage per Annum	9000
Excess Mileage Charge	6p per mile

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Nil Deposit
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On The Road Price	£12195.00
Deposit Allowance	£500.00
Amount of Credit	£11695.00
Total Charge For Credit	£1951.16
Total Amount Payable By Customer	£14146.56
GMFV (Optional Final Payment)	£4724.00
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The Glamorgan Farmers take a leaf out of Europe's book!

FOLLOWING the excitement of watching the European team triumph in the Ryder Cup at Celtic Manor, much was expected from the members of the Glamorgan Farmers' Golf Society as they entertained their farming friends for a Monmouthshire in their annual inter county golf competition.

Played on the RAF St Athan golf course which everyone found in excellent condition, three points were at stake in each of the 10 four-ball matches.

Veterans Gwyn Evans and David Thomas, surely the oldest pair ever to be selected to represent their county in any sport, started the proceedings but were unlucky to be drawn against in-form Brian Burrell and John Morgan, who secured the three points for the visitors' team.

Chris Rooney and Trevor Wooding, normally such a solid partnership, fared only marginally better when they salvaged just half a point in their match against Gordon Jones and Malcolm Francis.

Thankfully for the home team, Glyn Watts-Jones and Bryan Owen were in sparkling form to record a 3-0 victory over Monmouthshire captain John Walker and his partner John Duthie.

Rapidly improving Gwyn Thomas (still benefiting from one-to-one tuition) and his partner Keith Gibson scored an impressive two and a half to a half victory over Martin Richardson and Mike Daniel, while Keith James and Tony McCarthy secured another two and a half points against John Anstey and Steve Waters.

When John Davies and Aubrey Thomas returned a similar score against Reg Meyrick and Trevor Baker, the home team seemed well set to regain the inter county trophy which they lost last year when playing at

Pontypool Golf Club.

Keith Walker and Brian Jones, with their hard-earned two and a half points against Jonathan Davies and Colin Parry, put the home team in touching distance of victory, but just as the Americans did at Celtic Manor recently, the visitors fought back with devastating effect.

Shock defeat for Taylor and Caines

Monmouthshire's Ken Davies and Martin Ley took the home pairing of Tosh Taylor and John Caines to the cleaners, while Keith Wilding and Neil McLean, against Gwyn Jones and Andy Hilditch, recorded another shock nil return.

This brought the scores level at 13½ each with just one match out on the course. Thankfully for the home team, Clive Edwards, playing with wild card selection Jim Hayes, supported each other perfectly recording two and a half points against Richard Few and Gwyn Thomas to take the home team to victory, winning 16 points to the



ABOVE: Monmouthshire's John Anstey follows his ball in flight.



ABOVE: Veteran golfers David Thomas and Gwyn Evans.

visitors' 14.

Nearest the pin on the par three holes were Glyn Watts-Jones (2), John Caines and Trevor Baker, with Gordon Jones hitting the longest drive of the day on the 10th hole.

John Duthie made up for being soundly beaten in his match by correctly guessing 31 balls would

either be lost or out of bounds.

Members are now looking forward to the monthly meeting which takes place at St Pierre golf club on Thursday, October 28, kindly sponsored by Julian Kelly and David Harris representing the NFU Mutual Insurance.

TMCC

Local trainer Evan lands an across the card double

LLANCARFAN'S Evan Williams had an across the card double last Wednesday.

At Uttoxeter, his nine-year-old bay gelding *Prince Massini* won the Nicky Proctor Handicap Hurdle, beating fellow Welsh trainer Dai Burchell's *Babilu* by a length, while at Wetherby, his six-year-old bay gelding *Sweden* won the Investic Beginners' Chase by a neck from *New Shuil*.

The former was ridden by stable jockey Paul Moloney and the latter by Grand National winning jockey Graham Lee. Aberthin's Tim Vaughan won the opening Red Square Juvenile Hurdle at Uttoxeter with his versatile *Frame It* (Richard Johnson) which won easily from

ON AND OFF THE TURF with BRIAN LEE

Royal Torbo.

Cowbridge trainer Bryn Palling had a welcome winner when his *Callie's Angel*, ridden by Robert Winston, won the Tinsletown Maiden Auction Stakes for two-year-olds at Warwick.

Callie's Angel, a 7-1 shot, won by one-and-a-quarter lengths from *Fennie*.

At Windsor, Kenfig

Hill's John Flint won the Join The Royal Windsor Racing Club Claiming Stakes with *Urban Space*, which won by three-and-three quarters of a length from *Essexbridge*. *Urban Space* who carried top weight, was an odds-on favourite and was claimed by Connor Done for 15,000 guineas.

Olivia's award



ABOVE: Last week's Llantwit Major Surf Lifesaving Club had an incorrect caption. The winner of the Dafydd Saunders award was Olivia Insole, who is pictured above.

Under-9 football

BARRY CELTS is looking for players for its under-9s team.

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- 02 52 JAGUAR XKR 4.2 Automatic 2-Door Coupe.** In anthracite black with red/black leather interior, cruise control, 18" alloy wheels, climate control, traction control system, only 86,700 miles.....**£14,995**
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SPORTS

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Wales continue their European Cup glory run with Ireland win

WALES and France will go into a winner-takes-all clash in Albi this Saturday for the Alitalia European Cup, and a place in the 2011 Four Nations tournament to take on England, Australia and New Zealand.

This is after Wales sneaked a 31-30 win over Ireland in a tense match at The Gnoll in Neath on Sunday.

Both sides go into this week's game with two wins under their belts, turning the concluding group match into an unofficial European Cup 'final'.

It took a late field goal from Lee Briers to give the home side a seven point cushion going into the final five minutes, and it was a score that was needed as Ireland fought back with a final try, leading to a tense final 120 seconds.

Wales took the lead on four minutes when Mark Lennon did well to catch a high bomb and score in the corner.

Lee Briers could have scored Wales' second try, but he was forced into touch when crossing the line.

WALES
IRELAND

31
30

Ireland levelled on 17 minutes when Tim Bergin finished off a fine passing move by grounding in the corner. McNally's outstanding goal gave them the lead, and they scored again straight from the kick-off. Finnigan started the move with a fine run, with Matthew Fox in support, and McNally scored under the sticks before converting.

Wales worked their way upfield and following an excellent team effort, Lennon scored in the corner for his, and Wales', second.

The home side levelled when Ian Webster was put through brilliantly by Ross Divorty to go under the sticks. Lloyd White's kick gave Wales a slender lead at half-time.

Ireland regained the advantage six minutes after the interval when Finnigan set up Ryan Boyle to go over from close range - McNally converted.

Wales came back on 58 minutes when Rhys Williams scored in the corner after a period of strong Welsh pressure. White, who had now

started to control the game with a number of outstanding moves, converted again.

Ireland regained the lead when Jamie O'Callaghan was stopped in his tracks by Christiana Roets, but Luke Ambler grounded and McNally converted.

Roets was set up by White to score with the assister converting again and, after Gareth Thomas was short of the line, Rhys Williams was set up by Danny Jones to score what was eventually the vital try.

White missed the kick to leave Wales just six points ahead, and Briers looked to have made things safe with a drop goal, but Ireland weren't finished as McNally scored and converted his own try on 77 minutes.

The game was finally sealed with 70 seconds remaining on the clock when Ireland's Tim Bergin fumbled a pass on the wing, giving Wales possession that they didn't lose.

IG

A TALE OF TWO HALVES AT MARL AS...



LEFT: Action from the game as Sully Sports made the trip to Marl, only to be pipped by three points, losing 24-21.

CIACS put the boot into Sully Sports' mistakes

CIACS
SULLY SPORTS

24
21

SULLY SPORTS made the trip to Marl looking to build on their recent success, but came away with only a losing bonus point after throwing away the control of the match.

The visitors started well with their trademark ball carrying by the forwards, which throughout the first half ate into the CIACS' territory.

Sully dominated their opponents up front at the set piece to the point where, after being awarded a penalty under CIACS posts, the visitors opted for a scrum, and along came the first score by No 8 Scott Mills from a short pick-up and touch down off the driving pack.

Sports kept the tempo up, with the pack driving through the

heart of CIACS' defence, in particular flanker Dean Russell making great yards through broken play, linking well with the backs.

However, the South Road outfit attacked CIACS through several phases but couldn't capitalise by bad decision making with the line at their mercy.

It took a cool head of captain Peter Mees to finish off a chance by stepping inside his opponent to touchdown under the posts.

Sully Sports had CIACS on the rack now, constantly upsetting their lineup and scrum, starving their threatening backs of possession and pushing them back into their own half.

It was ironic then that CIACS would open their try account when, just before half-time, Sully stole one of their lineouts only for the

ball to bounce into the hands of the CIACS No 8 to score unopposed.

This was against the run of play, and Sully hit back straight from the kick-off, but again a dropped pass deprived the visitors of another score. With that the half-time whistle went, much to the relief of the home side who had been on the back foot throughout the first half.

In the second half, the match changed in favour of the CIACS, who managed to get their running rugby game together, offloading out of the tackle and causing problems in the Sully Sports' defence.

The visitors then made some strange tactical changes that rendered their lineup ineffective and went off the boil in the scrum too.

The loss of shape also contributed to conceding silly penalties to allow the CIACS' fly-half to slot home two penalties and a conversion, following a well worked try.

A drop goal was added by CIACS to race into a ten point lead, before Sully Sports decided to regroup and put together some meaningful passages of play.

The forwards started to fire again and, through some good hands in the midfield, space was created for winger

Nathan Szuchnick to beat his man and touch down

for a converted try. CIACS came back, but some last ditch defending by Sully Sports kept the home side before the final whistle.

It was a great advert for the league and great viewing for the neutral, but Sully Sports will feel they threw the game away when they had total control up front.

Sully Sports: L Booker, D Stillman, W Jones, P Mees (c), N Szuchnick, M Phillips, M Mees, D Stillman, J Newland, J Velda, M Angove, J Di Tomaso, D Russell, J Thomas, S Mills. Repts: I Yasin, R Franks, R Swinfen, P Miller, I Moore.

JUSTIN DI TOMASO

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GEM sport

TEAM CREATE PLENTY OF CHANCES Dinas Powys keep up their unbeaten start to season with victory over Bettws

THE versatility and depth of the squad was tested once again in this game, with Danny Street moving into midfield in place of Jason Davies, and Barry Pappin coming in at left back, both having good games in this win over Bettws, who started the game just one point behind Dinas.

The opening exchanges in this game were fairly even, and the first chance fell to Dinas' Ollie Dalton, who side-footed well

wide following a good Gareth Tedstone break and cross.

Bettws came straight back with giant centre-forward Jordan Mortimer heading on a free-kick, giving Gavin Thomas the chance to turn and shoot, forcing 'keeper Dave Burnett into a good save, pushing the ball round the post.

Dalton's corners were to prove decisive in this game and in the 17th minute, Bettws 'keeper Jonathan Davies got a fist to one corner but missed a second, and was grateful to see his defence complete the clearance.

A minute later, a

Welsh League Division Two
DINAS POWYS 2
BETTWS 0

Bettws attack swept length of the field with Michael Brooks having to step in to make the clearance.

With the home defence getting to grips with Jordan Mortimer and Steve Provis, and Danny Street getting the better of the Bettws midfield, an opening goal looked more likely for the home side and they got what they deserved in the 25th minute. It came from another accurate Ollie Dalton corner, Jon Carpentier converting with a powerful

header from six yards.

When Jordan Mortimer did find room in the area, his header was comfortably taken by Dinas 'keeper Burnett.

It was fitting that Dinas' second goal started with a great cross-field ball from Steve Provis for Ollie Dalton to latch onto, and when his cross was deflected out for a corner, Dalton stepped up to deliver and Ricki Morgan managed to get to the ball before the 'keeper to convert from close range.

Just before half-time, Mortimer had a chance to get a goal back but 'keeper Burnett saved his low shot.

The visitors came out looking to get a goal back and moved the ball around with more purpose, Richard Llewellyn heading over a long cross from Rhys Dyke and when Mortimer did well on the left side, his cross forced Burnett to dive bravely at the feet of the Bettws forwards.

With the referee handing out yellow cards with great regularity, it was inevitable that somebody would get a second booking and Carl Owen for Bettws was the unlucky player for a rash challenge.

With this in mind,

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Missed tackles decisive as Barry slump to defeat

ON ANOTHER cool but sunny day at the Reservoir Field, Barry entertained a side boasting a 'played five won four' record so far this season.

With several returnees from injury, Barry started confidently enough, but elementary errors were severely hampering their cause.

There was no support for the catcher at the restart, no rolling away from the tackle area, and probably the most damaging and disappointing of all was the number of missed tackles.

After ten minutes the visitors scored a try, which came directly from a series of three unsuccessful tackles.

At any level of rugby the side missing tackles can expect to be put under pressure and so it proved to be.

There were exceptions to this malaise, the notable ones being Poole and Brown.

To their credit, however, Barry did score a particularly fine try soon after the initial setback.

It was a long cut-out pass by Cummings, which enabled Evans to send in Ryan for a try, in a movement that spanned a good sixty metres.

A dubious decision over the conversion

BARRY RFC
TONYREFAIL

11
41

went against them to leave the visitors with a slender lead at 7-5.

The home team then went ahead by virtue of a good penalty kick by Cummings.

Their pack was then disrupted by what appeared to be a serious injury to O'Sullivan - we all hope that he recovers fully soon.

Barry were beginning to impose their game so it was particularly galling that two penalty attempts sailed wide of their target.

In contrast, Tonyrefail were successful with their chance on a rare visit to Barry territory.

The game was now swinging from end to end and by half time the sides had each added a penalty to their tally.

A score of Barry 11, Tonyrefail 13 was a fair reflection of the run of play in the first session.

An unfortunate knock forward from the restart handed the initiative to Tonyrefail, who took full advantage to score a try out wide, which was converted by their impressive outside half.

Things deteriorated further when missed tackles again crept into the Barry play, and the visitors scored two more unanswered scores, which effectively ended the match as a competition.

The visitor's backs were having a field day, using a stream of quality possession - how the Barry back line yearned for such opportunities!

The second half was one of one-way traffic towards the home try line, and their defence was finally breached again on the stroke of time with a converted try.

The game could be summed up by reference to the classic 'game of two halves'.

During the first, Barry kept in touch by virtue of spirit and enthusiasm, but did not take the chances on offer.

The second half saw the visitor's pack gaining the upper hand and providing their sharp three-quarters with good quality possession.

However, they were gifted nearly all their scores by more lamentable tackling.

This week's away fixture at Porth will give Barry the opportunity to correct these deficiencies; something they are quite capable of doing.

Barry: Hunt, O'Sullivan, Hollister, King, Gill, Poole, Brown, H Jones, Lee, Cummings, Bounes, Evans, Busitil, Provis, Ryan. Subs: G Jones, Rolfe, Adams, Mumford.
CO

Barry Town grab a last-gasp goal and earn all three points

WITH both Dinas Powys and Ely Rangers being relegated last season, this was the nearest game to be considered a local derby for The Dragons.

Caerau arrived at Jenner Park struggling near the bottom of Division One, but as so often happens when teams play Barry Town, they lifted their game and were unfortunate not to come away with a point.

The game started with Barry pushing forward at pace and Layton Maxwell's delivery of free kicks was sublime, causing the opposition's defence some trouble.

Caerau were trying to soak up the pressure and hit on the break which they managed on several occasions. Both 'keepers were forced into saves and Layton Maxwell also hit the upright from another free kick.

On the half hour, Dan Bradley made a great save when one-on-one with a Caerau forward and then made a superb fingertip save when a shot was deflected, as he managed to tip it onto an upright and the ball was cleared.

The last five minutes of the half were dominated by The Dragons and a cross from Rob Blatchford just eluded Zaki Misbah, before some great interplay

BARRY TOWN 2
CAERAU (ELY) 1

released Jaymes Dixon, whose low hard shot across the 'keeper found the back of the net to give Barry Town a 1-0 lead.

There was still time for another chance but Zaki Misbah's shot just went past the outside of the post.

The second half started with Caerau determined to get back into the game and within minutes, a header hit the crossbar, cleared by the under-pressure Town defence.

Caerau adopted the long ball tactic and it caused some consternation for the retreating Dragons defenders, and Kirk Huggins was called upon to make a last-ditch tackle as a forward bore down on the goal.

Barry weathered this early second half onslaught and another Layton Maxwell free kick found Zaki Misbah, but his header was well saved by the 'keeper.

With 12 minutes of the game remaining, Caerau were reduced to 10 men when their No 2 was cautioned for a second time.

To their credit, Caerau decided not to sit back and within minutes were on level terms, poor defending allowing Thomas Gilbert to burst through and fire home

past Dan Bradley.

Gavin Chesterfield decided to go for broke and made three changes for the last 10 minutes, with Ian Jones, Ryan Jenkins and James Saddler coming on.

The changes worked as The Dragons pushed for a winner and Caerau tried to hold out. As time was running out, The Dragons were awarded a free kick on the edge of the Caerau penalty area.

The ball was slipped to Kirk Huggins whose shot was fumbled by the unfortunate Caerau 'keeper and Ian Jones pounced to fire the rebound into the roof of the net.

The referee brought proceedings to a halt within seconds of the restart, and The Dragons had used a 'Get out of jail free' card in this game. Credit must go to the Barry Town players who never stopped trying to win the game.

Team: Dan Bradley, Geraint Frowen (sub James Saddler), Dan Clare, Kirk Huggins (capt), Damon Searle, Atif Bashir, Layton Maxwell (sub Ryan Jenkins), Sam Hartrey, Rob Blatchford, Zaki Misbah, Jaymes Dixon (sub Ian Jones). Subs not used: James Simpson, Lewis Cosslett.
DC

Barry Seconds continue their winning run

ST ALBANS 2nd XV 7
BARRY 29

ADAM LEE produced a virtuoso performance as Barry 2nd XV continued their winning run to further cement their place at the top of the league.

With the squad ravaged by injuries and call-ups to the first team, coaches Dai Griffith and Rhidian Scott were forced to shuffle their pack and call up players from the Barrians.

Any ideas that this might be a weak Barry 2nd XV side were quickly quashed, however, as Lee revelled in his new role at outside-half, scoring two quick tries.

He also added nine points with his boot to round off a man-of-the-match display.

Gerwyn Pugh and Jason Evans also crossed the line for Barry in what proved to be an emphatic win.

Barry 2nd XV will look to continue their winning run this weekend against Old Penarthians at home.

Team: A Evans, Leighton Dutton, D Williams, R Williams, Poole, J Williams, Lee, Houldley, Hosking, Sullivan, Lloyd Dutton, McTavish, Rendall, Thomas, J. Evans. Subs used: Jones, Turnbull, Pugh, Tobin.

Man-of-the-match: Lee.
KC

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